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大熊猫介

(ニトロプラス)

Illustration

ガーデンズ・クライシス

4

[hundred]
Hundred: Gardens Crisis



Hundred

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GA文庫

クレアの兄。ワルスラーン社の
実質的な支配者。

ハンター
ハンドレッドを狙う密猟者。
三人組のリーダー。

世界的な人気を誇る歌姫。

本作品の主人公。
歴代一位のハンドレッド
反応数値を誇る。

ハンターニ
密猟者。
クロヴァンの実の姉。

ハンター
密猟者三人組の妹分。

ルガーデンを束ねる
生徒会長。

名門ハーヴェイ家の末子。
人類最初の感染体。

ハヤトの妹。
サクラと共にライブで唄うことに。

可愛すぎる(?)ハヤトの同級生。

HUNDRED



あらあら、ハヤトさん。
ずいぶんとお元気ですね。



兄さんの身体、
思ったよりも固くて遅しくて……

素敵です♡



いいじゃないか、おっぱいも
それとも触ってみたい。



うう、僕だってハヤトと
一緒にお風呂に入りたいのに……



Prologue

The hometown of Kisaragi Hayato is situated in the west of the Empire of Yamato, which is in the huge continent of Eurasia that comprises the European continent and the Assyrian region.

Qin Empire is located almost in the center of it. A large-scale Savage annihilation operation involving 12 countries and 3 organizations in a mountainous region of more than 6,000 meters height along the border with the Republic of Ural, the Empire of Mongolia and the Federation of Rasiya titled《Operation: Bird in Cage》took place half a month ago.

Unfortunately, not all the Savages that were aimed at the operation could be exterminated.

Because the operation was interrupted due to the attack of the three hunters who are artificial Variants and the dragon type Savage, they fell into a continuous state of battle, and the Slayers who were participating were seriously injured.

As a result, and despite dropping sharply, there are still some existences of them in that place as several Savages could be confirmed with satellite photographs.

Therefore, it was decided that a joint operation was to be carried out again, combining both the extermination of the remaining Savages and the search of unknown Savages like the dragon type.

However, in that operation——in the second 《Operation: Bird in Cage》not a single member of Little Garden is participating in it.

The *vital* and *energy* of the members of *Selections*, including Hayato and co. who participated in the previous operation, had been considerable exhausted and returned to Little Garden because they had captured the trio of hunters.

The ones participating in the operation this time are the Slayers of countries and organization that remained in Qin Empire and had relatively suffered small damage in the previous battle.

Among them are Aly Harlech who belongs to Al-Salaam and Wendy Velvet who belongs to the army of Liberia, they followed operation actions with Latia and the others.

Though they were attacked by the hunters, they were hurt enough to the extent that their armaments cancelled but got minor injuries.

Two weeks later, their *vital* and *sense energies* were completely recovered and decided to participate in the operation.

80% of the participants are in the second operation.

With that much, the second «Operation: Bird in Cage» was progressing favorably.

From noon to night when the operation started, the number of Savages exterminated was 12.

The Savages remaining in the area have already been reduced to 10.

Wendy and Aly who are also in the same team this time, were exploring apart from the tent stretched around the top of the mountain late at night.

Since they are in the midst of the operation, they are, of course, wearing their Variable Suits.

– Wait a moment, Wendy. Something moved ahead just now.

Aly, who was walking ahead, suddenly stopped her feet.

Wendy also stops her feet and strains her eyes.

– Certainly, that's the case.

The distant grass is swaying.

Moreover, it's gradually approaching to where they are.

– Hide.

– Okay.

Wendy hides herself in the shadow of the big tree, following Aly who moved first.

– I'll check to see if it's a Savage or not.

Aly peeked at the moving grass while hiding half of her body at the tree trunk.

What she saw was the figure of a grotesque life form with a darkened steel shell.

– Look, it's quite small!

From behind Aly, Wendy also confirms the figure of the Savage.

– Certainly, it's around 2 times smaller than a normal type, isn't it?

One could say that it's over-all length is 3 meters and its height around 2 meters.

– If it's only one, then it can be dealt with a single person, don't ya think?

– Please wait!

Trying to jump out towards the direction of the Savage, and without a moment's delay, Wendy took the arm of Aly.

– If we are going to fight, we have to contact everyone. That's the rule.

It was decided by the operation that to head towards a perfect situation, they have to keep in touch in case they enter a battle act other than in an emergency situation.

But, Aly showed a confident smile like saying “don't worry”

– The enemy is smaller than a normal type. That's not necessary. There's no Savage that I haven't finished off so far, I must show that guy my true strength here as a proud Slayer of Al-Salaam. Otherwise, Al-Salaam will be treated with contempt.

– But, there may be other Savages.... Besides, that Savage, the color of the pattern of its body is **red**. Despite the other Savages being yellow...

– The grass on the other places isn't moving and what's with the color again? You are going to watch my fight from here.

– Wait, Aly!

Shaking off the arm of Wendy, Aly jumps out from the other side of the tree and deploys the Hundred that was already grasped tightly in her hand.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

The body of the girl is covered with a golden light.

What appeared in both hands is a weapon similar to a willow leaf dagger. The width of the blade is very wide.

It's the Phalanx type Hundred of Aly, 《Blazing Fighting Spirit》*Braveheart*.

– Here I go!

Kicking the earth, Aly swoops down on the Savage.

However, at the same time she catches hold of the whole body with her eyes, she had an uncomfortable feeling and stopped moving.

– What is, this thing...?

There's no core in the head.

On the contrary, no core was found anywhere in its body.

When looking properly, there are two eyes in the center of the head but there's only one, and it doesn't have long tactile.

– What the hell **is this thing?** Hey...!

– Aly, be careful!

Something protruded from the back of the Savage in a forward-bent posture.

Aly stares at it.

It's a wire with something like a **kunai** on the tip.

By a hair's breadth, Aly dodged it with a jump and starts slashing at the Savage with the blades of both hands.

However, she was able to slightly scratch the steel shell.

She wasn't able to tear it.

Still, Aly never gave up.

– Damn!!

She spits out and jumps, trying to cut at the steel shell of the Savage once again.

(What the hell is that one-eyed thing? A few seconds ago, a Savage of this size left me unable to load *energy* into my weapons. If it doesn't have a core, if I strike it loading my weapons with all my *energy*, then I should be able to slaughter it, cutting its flesh——)

Thinking so, Aly tried to strike the two daggers against the steel shell,

– Aly, avoid it!

The voice of Wendy that resounded like a shriek, informs about the danger.

Becoming disconcerted and turning her neck, what slips through the many trees is a long straight beam that came into view.

(What, the...?)

The beam is approaching before her eyes, it seems unlikely that she can dodge it in her current condition.

– ——guah!

Aly received a direct hit of the beam that she didn't predict and is knocked down on the ground.

– Tsk, there was another Savage!?

While enduring the pain, she picks up the two daggers that fell to the ground and tried to stand up.

But just there, when she tried to attack a little while ago, the pincers of a Savage approached.

Feeling the sense of danger that Aly had not noticed there yet,

– Aly, it's dangerous!! ...aah!

A sorrowful voice leaks out from the mouth of Wendy as she tried to push down Aly.

As they entangle themselves together, they flopped onto the ground.

– ... kh, I'm glad, I managed to save you somehow...

As she says so, Aly knitted her brows, looking at the cold sweat that started to suspend on the forehead of Wendy who repeats short sighs over and over

again.

— Somehow? You— —

Immediately afterwards, Aly felt the sensation of a thick liquid in her hand which was shaped to surround the back of Wendy.

— This is...

Checking her hand, Aly was shocked.

— Isn't this blood...? Hey, Wendy! You, the shriek of earlier was— —

— Ahaha, looks like I just messed up a little. My back got hurt...

Wendy laughs at herself.

— I messed up, you say...? Hey, you okay!? Respond!

— Please, Aly. Run away... to our comrades...

— What are you spouting, Wendy!? Don't die! Hey!

But, there's no reply.

Strength comes out from the body of the stumbling Wendy.

— Wendy!!

No way, she thought.

But, her heart is still moving.

(— —she's alive!)

It's weak, but she's breathing.

— This was my fault.... Because I fought as I wanted— —

This isn't the situation to be saying that it's for the pride of Al-Salaam or whatever.

She definitely needs to help Wendy who was wounded to save her...

Aly tried to transmit an emergency call to their comrades who are resting in a tent, using the wireless ring of her arm. However, the wireless doesn't get communicate.

(You are joking, right...? It's broken due to the impact just now?)

She thinks that it was to that degree, since it's a fact that she can't connect.
Then, she immediately takes Wendy away from that place and calls for help.
– Damn!

Aly stands up carrying Wendy in both arms and tried to run towards the tent, but a sudden cracking-like pain attacks her head and ends up falling down.

– What's this sound...!?

A high-pitched sound that continues intermittently stimulates the brain.

Twitch Twitch, the body of Wendy twitches and repeatedly suffered from convulsions when she was thrown down to the ground and separated her hand when she fell down.

– Damn, what's happening... my body, doesn't move...

On the contrary, her consciousness becomes thinner.

– ... Wen-dy... everyone...

– The motion test is a success.

A woman was standing to the side of Aly who lost consciousness.

She's a very tall woman.

Her figure is nice, her body that is covered with a black bodysuit draws an arc appropriate for a woman and is charming but her long, unruly and mingled hair is ruffled and the white coat she put on is tattered.

The expression of her eyes is fairly sharp and fascinating and yet, those eyes are wearing an ominous aura.

– With this, I can execute **that** strategy...

She holds the cigarette that she was holding in her mouth between her fingers and *Fuu*, emitted smoke while looking up at the sky.

Slightly above her shoulders, something like a hornet with a length of about 30 centimeters, which has a steel shell like the Savages, and has a reddish pattern on the whole body, and despite all that, is floating while turning on a light like a firefly.

It's an **artificial life-form** created by Vitaly Tynyanov from the cores of the Savages and the *Variable* Stones that she accumulated.

She's a traitor who, in order to stop the movement of the Slayers and attack Little Garden, has prepared a trump card——a decisive battle weapon.

Chapter 1: Summer vacation *Returning home*

The mysterious Savage and the hunters

The participation in the joint operation was over and the calendar reached August.

The general education curriculum of elementary school, middle school and senior high school of Little Garden has already entered the summer vacation from the latter half of July, but the Martial Arts Department was the exception.

Although they are in the summer vacation period, they stand as preparatory-department students of Warslan Company and as such, aside of guarding Little Garden, there's the possibility that they have to be dispatched for special missions; in case the Savages have appeared in a neighboring area, etcetera.

Therefore, they have 1 week of vacation.

It doesn't mean that this goes simultaneously to everyone of Martial Arts Department. They will be divided into three teams by《LiZA》, the main computer of Little Garden and will take turns. The members of *Selections* are the same.

Fritz and Latia, members of *Selections* and who are first-year students of the Martial Arts Department like Hayato and co., were given vacations in the beginning of August.

They said that they are going to enjoy summer vacation in their hometown of Liberia.

The reason why Hayato and Emile were given vacations is because Fritz returned to Little Garden.

In Yamato, it's exactly the time of the Bon Festival.

Then Hayato, along with his little sister Karen, went and visited the grave of their parents who had died during the *Second Attack* that occurred during their

stay in the Kingdom of Gudenburg in the Federation of Britannia and went to make an appearance to the companions who lived together with them in the orphanage where they spent many years.

However, and as a result of that, a total of 5 people was heading to Yamato from Little Garden.

It was around the evening of the day when the date of summer vacation was settled.

– I don't want to go back to Gudenburg and there are no other places where I want to travel, so I wonder if it's impossible to accompany Hayato and the rest?

Emile began to talk after visiting the room of Hayato.

– Does that mean that you are going to spend your summer vacation in Yamato with us or something like that?

– Previously, you told me that if we had the chance, you'll show me around Yamato, don't you? So, I thought that this was such opportunity... or it's no good?

– It's not that, I can't, but...

Saying that she's coming to his birthplace is expected to be somewhat embarrassing as she's going to see the places where he hid his everyday clothes and underwear.

However, there's a memory such as showing her around Yamato.

That is, if he's not mistaken, when they entered the large public bath of the dorm.

– But, what are we going to do about the place to stay at? Because it's the countryside, there are no hotels, you know.

– What are Hayato and the others going to do?

– Regarding us, the institution has prepared some rooms... but I don't think that there are any rooms available...

– In that case, is it no good if I stay with you?

– Karen's with me too. It's very probable that "you being a woman" will be

completely exposed, don't you think?

– Ah, true...

They haven't told Karen that Emile's true identity is the one of a woman—moreover, that she's not Emilia Hermit, but Emilia Gudenburg, the hidden princess of Gudenburg.

– Err, what shall I do...

– For the time being, and after talking to Karen, I'll ask Ryōko-obasan.

– Ryōko-obasan?

– She's the institution head of the orphanage where I was raised. As long as they have futons, we can cope with it and sleep in the lobby.

As a result of the consultation, both Karen and Ryōko-obasan, the institution head, gave their OK.

However, the problems increased by one.

Kirishima Sakura, who was visiting the hospital room of Karen, came up with「I want to go too if Emile-san goes」.

– Is that true, Sakura-san!?

Karen asks gladly.

– This is also a good opportunity, thinking that it's also nice to return to my hometown in a long time♪.

– In a long time, you say... you do *live concerts* frequently in Yamato, don't you...?

The other person is the Idol who travels all over the world, she's Kirishima Sakura.

The current Hayato, unlike the one of the past, knew that she's performing once or twice per month, especially around the world.

The popularity of Kirishima Sakura in Yamato which is her country of origin is high and the number of times of *live concerts* is large.

She should be performing *live concerts* there at least twice a year.

– But this and that are different stories!

Sakura objected.

– When I returned because of work I didn't have much free time and I couldn't look around Yamato, and also I want to see the place where Hayato-kun and Karen-chan spent their time. Besides, there is a fan of mine in the hospital near the institution, isn't that right?

– A fan? Are you sure about it...?

– Well, I told Sakura-san some time ago about her, however——

Saying so, Karen starts talking.

The name of the girl seems to be Kay, and like Karen, she seems to be suffering from the same disease of cause unknown that prevailed after the *First Attack*.

She and Karen got acquainted by going to the same hospital and became close friends as they are “fans” of the same Kirishima Sakura and seems they are keeping in touch even now.

– Although Kay-chan's condition wasn't as bad as Karen's, I heard a conversation that she was kind of getting hospitalized as her recent physical condition was becoming considerably worse these days. Because of that, I was feeling sad...

– For this reason, I think that I plan to go and visit her to cheer up that child. Fan service must be properly done ♪ In addition, by seeing provincial cities of Yamato, *inspiration* will be surging which will also be the source of future musical activities, it'll be like killing two birds with one stone. So, it's fine, right?

Souffle Clearrail, her manager and who's also the company president of the production where she belongs to, was forcibly persuaded by the almost fervent speech of Sakura——in the end, it was decided that she's accompanying them to Yamato.

With this, the total is of four people.

The remaining person is Mihal, the nurse in charge of Karen.

Although she'll go back to her parent's house for the first few days, she

scheduled the last night of her vacation to spend it with Hayato and Karen.

And thus, the night before the summer vacation came along. Hayato and the others boarded the transport aircraft of Little Garden and arrived in the imperial capital of Yamato the next morning.

After half a day of sightseeing temples, tempura shops, the imperial capital *sky tree* and so forth, they parted with Mihal who returned to her parent's house and boarded the Shinkansen* for two hours.

***TN: 新幹線 literally “new main line”, it means bullet train.**

From the station of the provincial town in the mountainous region where they arrived at, they headed further north for an hour or so by electric train and they finally arrive at the nearest unmanned station.

When they left the station building, an eight-seater minivan comes into view. In front of that, an elderly woman who was about to meet her sixties was standing up.

She's Kizaki Ryōko, the institution chief of the children's home where Hayato and Karen were raised.

– Welcome back, you came back nicely.

She welcomed Hayato and co. with a tender smile that remains the same from half a year ago.

– Ryōko-obasan, it's been a long time.

To begin with, the wheelchaired Karen bows her head.

Subsequently, Hayato also lowered his head.

– Thank you very much for receiving us.

– Are these people your school friends?

It was Sakura who bowed her head first and turned her eyes to Ryōko

– Ah, yes. My name is Kirishima Sakura.

– Oh, that Idol!

Clap, Ryōko strikes the palm of both hands in front of her chest.

– You knew me? I’ve been indebted to Hayato-kun for a long time, he saved my life during my work.

Her voice is slightly higher than usual.

It’s the response of Kirishima Sakura as an Idol.

Subsequently, Emile also saluted her.

– I’m Emile Crossford. I’m a classmate of Hayato and his childhood friend.

– ... childhood friend?

Ryōko inclines her head to the side, looking curious.

– Uhh, we were seeing each other when I was staying in Gudenburg. I’ve been recovering my memories recently...

– Is that so? That makes me glad. I heard that Karen-chan’s body is getting better, but how better is she?

– Karen-chan is already able to stand by herself from the wheelchair!

It was Sakura and not Karen who answered with confidence.

Ryōko smiled, turning her eyes to Karen once again,

– Karen-chan, can you get in the car by yourself?

– Yes, don’t worry.

Karen nodded firmly.

– Then, let’s move promptly.

Ryōko opens the door of the minivan.

Showing that she was fine, Karen comes down from the wheelchair with the receiving help of Sakura and got in the minivan by herself.

Next, Hayato and the rest also get in the minivan, one after another.

– When we get to the institution, I think that Hayato will surely be surprised.

Then she got into the driver’s seat and turned on the engine.

– Eh, this is—

He was shaken enough by the minivan.

Hayato who arrived at the institution where he spent his childhood reacts as Ryōko was saying.

Speaking of the institution of half a year ago, it was a wooden building that was worn out for more than 50 years.

In the last few months, however, its appearance was of a concrete building, similar to the dorm of Little Garden, it has been transformed into a beautiful building.

– No way, it became something like this...

He heard that the subsidy from Warslan was going towards the institution, but he didn't know about it until it was rebuilt.

– Karen knew about this?

– Of course.

Karen wasn't surprised, as he was thinking that she possibly heard it from the kids living in the institution with whom she was in contact almost every day, so it was that in the end.

Ryōko says, being apologetic.

– I told her to keep it a secret from Hayato-kun, thinking that this would surprise you.

– I was really surprised.

Hayato looks up at the institution again.

It was already pitch dark and he couldn't see it entirely, but it turned out that only a light was leaking out from the institution, he grasped its very beautiful outward appearance.

– Ah, it's Hayato!

– Karen too, welcome back!

The door of the institution opens and the children rushed out.

It seems they were hearing the sound of the vehicle.

– Hey! I told you to not go outside at this hour, didn't I?

Ryōko is saying so as they called out Hayato who's looking up at the building, stupefied.

– But Hayato and Karen have returned! Hayato, it's been a while!

An elementary school student girl coiled around the leg of Hayato.

– Yeah, it's been a while.

Hayato pats her head.

– Say, Hayato. What kind of place is Little Garden? Is it great?

– I want to hear that story too!

– Umm, that's...

Ryōko calls out to Hayato who tried to start talking.

– If the story is long, then let's get inside first. Everyone will come out if we stay here forever.

The inside of the institution that they set foot into was as beautiful as the outward appearance.

There's a living room in the large lobby, as well as rooms for the children that can live in groups of four people and there are classrooms that look similar to the ones in the schools. A shelter prepared for raids of the Savages is said to have been established underground.

There seems to be 3 rooms for visitors.

Therefore, Karen and Sakura used one room, and Hayato and the others used each of the rooms, one by one.

Emile said that it was fine for her to be in the same as Hayato, but Sakura strongly opposed to that and that she should be the one to do it.

– Those two are somewhat suspicious.

That's the speech of Sakura.

Speaking of why she's suspicious, is that when going back in time, when Hayato defeated the dragon type Savage that they encountered during

the《Operation: Bird in Cage》, Hayato used up his *sense energy* and lost consciousness.

Hayato woke up after a day and a half had passed since returning to Little Garden in a personal airplane.

He was in a standard hospital.

Emile, who was on the side there, kissed him, trying to speed up the recovery of the *sense energy* of Hayato.

Unluckily for her, Karen and Sakura turned up there.

Denying frantically that Emile was kissing Hayato, she made every possible excuse and although deceived her on the spot, it looks like Sakura doesn't fully believe him (her).

Not everything was terrible, since **Emilia** was posing as a man,

Even though it's harsh to suspect of love between men, like 「Hayato accepts my love, but he's not going to marry me because he likes men?」and so forth, then it would have been even more troublesome if she was appearing as a woman. The fact that Emile is a woman is a secret to Sakura and Karen.

Putting the luggage in the room and going to the lobby, there were lots of deep-fried food, fried prawns, fried potatoes, *etc.* on the table, the food that children seemed to like were lined up.

– It's a welcome party that served as dinner.

Ryōko-obasan said, and continued her words.

– However, this is cooking that it's only intended for kids, so I'm sorry.

– Does Ryōko-obasan know that I also like cooking like this?

– But I'm not talking to Hayato-kun. I'm talking to Sakura-san and Emile-san.

– Ah, is that so...?

hahaha,, laughter comes up from the children. The ones remaining in the institution now are children who are 5 years old away from Hayato.

4 males and 3 females, a total of 7 people.

They were a little nervous regarding Sakura and Emile, but the atmosphere has calmed a little now.

He wonders if Ryōko has noticed it.

She tries to shorten the distance between Emile, Sakura and the children.

– Well, enough about Hayato-kun and the others, would Emile-san and Sakura-san please introduce yourselves?

– Okay then, me first.

It was Sakura who stood up, striving to be the first.

– I am Kirishima Sakura. Do you all know about me?

– I know!

– The Idol, right!?

And, voices from the young boys are raised.

– Give me an autograph, please!

And voices like that were raised too.

– If it's an autograph, then I'll write as much as you like afterwards. By the way, I got acquainted with Hayato-kun since he accepted to be my bodyguard and——

– Yes, this is taking too long, can we finish it? Next is my introduction.

Emile stands up, clapping with *clap clap*.

– Hey, why are you stopping me midway!?

– Everyone is hungry, and I'm also hungry. I already told you, it's my introduction. I'm Emile Crossford. I'm a classmate of Hayato in Little Garden.

– A classmate? That means you are a Slayer, huh?

– Have you fought the Savages!?

– Yup, I fought them. Together with Hayato!

– Wow, amazing!

– The Savages are *ztrong* too, *righte*?*

***TN: this kid had a weird way of talking.**

– Yup, they’re strong. But, Hayato and I are stronger though!

Turning towards the looks of envy from the boys, Emile isn’t as annoyed as she would have others believe.

Looking at it, Ryōko noticed the uninterested expression of Sakura.

As Emile did some time ago, she claps with *clap clap*.

– Alright then, as their self-introductions have ended, let’s eat.

They start eating, expressing their gratitude before meals at the same time.

Welcoming songs from the children were transmitted to Hayato and the others; the party was at its peak.

Trying to return the favor, Sakura sings children’s songs with Karen.

Along with them, the children also began to sing.

– Come on Hayato, you sing too.

– You sure know children’s songs of Yamato, huh.

– This is also a song that it’s in my country. Rather, wasn’t it originated from here?

– Oh, you are right.

– Come on, sing.

Prompted by Emile, Hayato also begins to sing.

However, he’s not able to get the rhythm very well.

Then, one of the boys knitted his brows and said.

– Hayato is, as usual, poor at singing, huh.

Subsequently, Sakura said.

– Hayato hasn’t changed from the older days...

– Sh-shut up!

The lobby was full of laughter.

– Sakura, Karen, let's play!

In the morning of the next day, Sakura loosened up the tension with the children of the institution and played games in the lobby together with Karen and the children. That's the same for Emile. She plays with little girls of 4 and 5 years old with building blocks and go out to the nearby lake together.

– Hayato, this is really a nice place, isn't it?

It was their third day in Yamato when Emile expressed so. Sakura and Karen went out to shop in the city together with the children and while they are doing that they will be visiting the place of the girl named Kay who's hospitalized in the hospital; she's the aforementioned fan of Sakura.

– ... you think?

– Ryōko-obasan is also a nice person. When I was a child, I spent most of the time alone, so I'm really envious of such a life. I feel that I understood the meaning of Hayato who was saying "I would do my best for everyone in the institution".

Saying so, Emile smiled.

Thus 5 days passed and the last event in Yamato, the festival of the Shinto shrine of the neighborhood, came along.

– Muu, I also wanted to wear a yukata.

Before going to the festival, Emile who visited the room of Hayato leaked so.

– If there were for men you'll still be wearing them, huh.

– I'd be wearing that instead of a uniform like this.

– You want to wear women's clothes? But, as expected, it's way too conspicuous to have the appearance of a woman.

– Yup, I know.

Regarding the rural towns of Yamato, most of the people come from Yamato.

Although they stand out even if they are ordinary, if she's appearing as a woman, she will stand out even more.

It would be extremely easy to identify Emile as Emilia as they are the same

person.

– Well, a festival is a festival no matter what appearance you have. It's your first time going to a Shinto shrine. I hope you enjoy it.

– Yup.

By the way, Sakura and Karen decided to wear yukata.

The ones who aren't wearing one are Hayato and Emile.

However, when they went to the Shinto shrine in the center of the festival venue, there were a lot of people dressed in casual clothes.

To begin with, they visit the shrine first.

– Is it fine if I pray here?

Standing before the front shrine, Emile called on Hayato.

– Yes, that's right. And when throwing a money offering, ring that bell.

– What are you going to wish, Hayato?

– Well, I wonder what I should wish... For the time being, I hope to spend time with everyone safely.

– *Annoyed*, that's somewhat usual, typical of Hayato.

It's Sakura who said so.

– If so, shall I wish for world peace?

– What about Emile?

– Nope, it's a secret.

– What's with that?

– It's a secret.

In the end, Emile didn't tell him what she prayed for.

After that, they enjoyed the festival by eating yakisoba that they bought at a stall, playing "scoop the fish", playing target practice and then they participated in the Bon Festival dance.

In the last event, the Bon Festival dance, Sakura climbed the watchtower and

started singing folk songs, so it became a serious thing.

Many people recognized her, and they got quite excited.

– Although it was my first time participating in the Bon Festival dance, it was really fun!

– You really like singing, don't you...?

Sakura, who was coming back, was pretty satisfied.

And in the last night in Yamato, along with Mihal who came from her parent's house, Hayato and co. decided to do toy fireworks in the backyard of the institution.

– Ah, mine has already fallen.

It's been 10 seconds since the beginning and the sphere fall from the firework of Hayato.

– Nii-san, Karen is still there.

– Mine too... fell down.

– Mine also fell....

– Mine has fallen as well.

The sphere of Karen is the one that lasted the most.

Next is Sakura.

Mihal, then Emile and Hayato, that was the order.

Nonetheless, even if a minute was just a little longer— they feel like the pleasant days in Yamato passed approximately the same.

In this way, the last night in Yamato went on.

And, the early morning of the day when they return to Little Garden came in the blink of an eye.



– Hayato, Hayato, wake up...

– Hmm...?

In response to the voice he heard close to his ear, Kisaragi Hayato raised his body while rubbing his eyes and identifies the figure of Emile.

—wha, why did you come into my room!?

– Shh! Be quiet. It would be bad if we are heard by someone.

– Certainly that's correct, but...

Karen and Sakura are in the next room—

And Mihal who joined last night is also sleeping.

– So, what the heck are you doing?

Hayato asks with a small voice.

– Why don't we go to the hot spring now?

– Huh? And why at this hour?

Hayato stares in wonder.

– We'll leave Yamato today at noon, this'll be the last memory that we'll be making, you know.

Saying that, Emile continued.

– Because I couldn't get in with Karen-chan, Sakura-san and co. and when Hayato and the others went to the hot spring, I couldn't go. But, if it's now, we can go, walking stealthily. Besides, the hot spring of this time seems to be a little special(ish).

– ... special? What does that mean...?

– It means than it's going to be fun. So, let's go.



Tagging with Emile, Hayato moved to the hot spring.

It's 20 minutes on foot.

There's a hot spring on the mountainside behind the institution.

– Two people walking in this way is enjoyable.

– Hey, don't link arms with me!

Shaking and untangling his arm, Hayato takes a distance of 50 centimeters.

– Then let's link our hands.

– No, that's the same... What if we are caught by someone?

– This isn't Little Garden, it's Yamato, you know. Furthermore, at this time, it's safe.

While saying that, Emile took the hand of Hayato.

Feeling the thinness of her fingertips and the warmth of her hand, the face of Hayato turns red.

– Ehehe, I'm happy.

– ... is that so?

– Yup. I'm happy—ah, look, Hayato. The sun has started to rise.

When Emile turns her eyes to the direction indicated by her finger, the light of the sun is beginning to overflow from the ridgeline of the mountain that is visible in the distance.

– It's a beautiful sight. So, this is the dawn of Yamato.

Being 5 minutes away from the hot spring, Hayato and Emilia kept watching the scene of the morning glow side-by-side for a short while.

– —ah, let's go to the hot spring soon. It's very convenient before a lot of people arrive.

– What's with that, huh? How's that convenient?

– You'll know it once we get there.

And, he was told that by Emile but, Hayato didn't understand anything, even when standing before the hot spring.

– Well then, I'll go this way.

Saying that, Emile loosened her hair.

– O-okay...

Emile was transforming into Emilia.

Although she looks like a man in shirt and trousers, it looks like she won't be stopped at the changing room for women.

– Okay then, see you later.

Parting with Emilia who enters the changing room for women, Hayato entered the changing room for men.

– Huh...?

As he got naked and stepped into the hot spring, Hayato felt something out of place.

(This hot spring, was this big?)

But I came here last night, right?

Although the steam is rising and the visibility is bad, and because of the illumination being nonexistent, the whole can be surveyed, so maybe that's what he felt.

While thinking so, Hayato picked up a wooden chair and washed his head lightly with a shower and decided to soak himself in the white muddied hot water.

– Aah, it feels good...

If the temperature isn't that high yet, then the sunlight of the sun isn't strong and the wind isn't sticky either.

When thinking about the comfortable feeling of entering in a hot spring in the morning being really good—, footsteps were heard from afar.

(There are people who come to the hot springs at this hour, huh)

Turning his eyes and wondering who's the person who will come in, the figure of Emilia meets his eyes, her body was covered with a towel.

– Wha...! What are you doing here!

Without thinking, Hayato ended up shouting.

There's no doubt that Emilia should have entered the changing room for women.

Despite this, why is she in the men's bath?

– The fact that you are having such reaction means that you haven't realized it yet.

– Haven't realized? What do you...

– As a matter of fact, this time is when there are no partition intervals, so it becomes a mixed bath.

– Wha— —

Come again?

– In this way, I can enter in the hot spring with Hayato, that's why we came to the hot spring at this hour.

Ehehe, and sticking out her tongue, Emile soaked her body in the hot water and brought her shoulders closer.

– H-hey... don't get too close.

Even when saying so, Emilia doesn't go away.

She gets closer until the distance was enough to make the warmth touch each other and smiled happily.

– Ehehe, my dearest wish has finally come true.

– Why are you saying that...?

– “To enter in a real hot spring with Hayato like this”. I told you when we took a bath in the dorm together, isn't it? That I wanted to get in a mixed bath.

– Now that you mention it, I remember that you were saying that kind of thing...

– There are still some things that I left undone in Yamato, but I'm satisfied to some extent with this.

– There are still some things, you say? You ate tempura, you saw Mt. Fuji and the imperial capital *sky tree*, you even participated in the festival, you did a lot

of things, don't you? Did you have anything else you wanted to do?

– The most disappointing thing is that we couldn't see the fireworks.

– The fireworks? If that's the case didn't we do that yesterday in the garden of the institution?

– Not those, but the “*BOOM*” of huge skyrocket fireworks, you know. I wanted to see them once.

– Is it possible that you haven't seen skyrocket fireworks?

– Although there are a lot of fireworks going up in the beginning of the year ceremony in Gudenburg as well, I heard that the ones in Yamato are more amazing than those. Besides, I was spending most of my time in Gudenburg. I remember seeing the skyrocket fireworks only on the screen of a PDA or TV... hmm, we had this conversation before, do you remember?

– Is that so? When was it?

– I knew it, you don't remember.

Pouting her lips as she became sulky, Emilia continued.

– It was ten years ago, in Gudenburg. We were talking about the same skyrocket fireworks and that if I come to Yamato, you promised me that you'll show me the real fireworks, don't you remember?

– It's inevitable. I still have memory problems remaining. And you, I mean, you remembered it now, don't you?

– That's not it. I always remember.

– If that's the case, then you should have said it early. You could have stretched your legs to the place where the fireworks were being done, you know.

– Nope, I was waiting for Hayato to remember it. But, since you aren't remembering it... How about now?

– I'm sorry, but I can't remember that time...

– Eh——

– But, I have remembered something.

– What what?

– Alphonse said it before, but the port city of Sangria where the founding festival is held seems to be a sister city of Yokohama, the port city of Yamato, and at the finale of the festival, fireworks are likely to be launched grandly in the same way as Yamato.

– What, such a thing...

Emile sighed with a dejected look.

– But, if that's the case, we can see the fireworks of Yamato together, what do you think?

– You are saying, that you are going to see them together with me!?

– Y-yeah.

– Yay♪

Emilia clings to his back tightly.

– H-hey... Stop, now both of us are naked.

– Don't be so conscious of each other, because I'm embracing you from behind, okay?

– You may not be conscious about this, but I am!



– Eh, what am I doing? Will you tell me?

Loosening her mouth as if she's enjoying it, Emilia asked with a mischievous tone.

– About what you are doing, you say? That's...

Of course, it's the two bulges on his back.

In fact, they are pressing even more tighter.

– Hey, stop...

– Come on Hayato, tell me.

– I'm telling you to stop!

As things are, it's a flexible and soft sensation.

And thus, it's positive to consider that she wants him to feel the warmth of her skin.

A sweet aroma is hanging in the air that makes his heart accelerate, he ends up swallowing saliva.

– You don't really want me to stop, do you?

– Well, it's just that such a thing...

Nonetheless, what Emilia was saying might be correct since he doesn't feel like separating too much.

Of course, he can't say that aloud.

(I guess we look like we were flirting if we were seen by other people...)

While thinking such a thing, sounds resounded abruptly.

– Hey, it seems that someone comes!

While impatient, Hayato points out with a loud voice.

– But I want to be next to Hayato.

– Hey, what's wrong with you!?

Getting a portion of himself away from Emilia who had narrowed the distance even more, Hayato shouted.

Thereupon, Emilia is pouting her lips,

– Still, if it was a man who came in, it's probable that he'll be staring at us with ecchi eyes, isn't it? If we appeal to him that "I'm a proper man", then he's not going to look at us with those eyes, don't you think?

– But, what if it's someone that we know? That'd be dangerous!

– I don't think that we'll be unlucky so as to have an acquaintance to come to the hot spring at this hour.... This place isn't Little Garden, but Yamato, you know.

Emilia said so, but it wasn't such a thing.

– Wow, the steam is rising up immensely. Karen-chan, can you stand by yourself?

– Yes, I'm fine, somehow.

The voices of two people reached their ears.

Those are voices they have heard somewhere...

– Eh...

In a flash, the expression of Emilia hardened.

Hayato's the same.

– It's a joke, right...?

With the rising up steam, they can't confirm their appearances properly, but there's no doubt that that was the voice of Sakura just now.

From inside the steam, it can be inferred that she's Sakura, even from the silhouette of her body that came and they were seeing vaguely.

There's another person next to her.

There's a silhouette of a girl who has long hair and is shorter than Sakura.

A slim body and a slow walk.

Even from the previous conversation, she's definitely Karen.

- Those girls, why do they come to the hot spring at a time like this?
- Awawa.... Hayato, what should we do...?
- Even if you say what should we do...

They look around inside the hot spring.

There's a lot of steam rising up, the visibility is unclear.

If they take distance from the two of them at once and get out from the hot spring stealthily without making a sound, then it's possible that they won't be found by those two girls.

Hayato thought so, and addressed Emilia with a small voice, pointing out with his finger the shade of a rock.

- Escape stealthily, getting out from that place.
- Only me? What about Hayato?
- We'll stand out if we are together, isn't it?
- But then, Hayato will be soaked in the hot spring together with Sakura-san and Karen-chan...

Saying that as if she didn't like it, she swells her cheeks, being sullen.

However, this shouldn't be the moment to quarrel here.

- This is not the moment to say such things. Go fast!
- Uu, fine...

When Hayato continues his words without hesitation, Emilia goes away showing a vexing look.

After a while, he heard slight noises coming from the hot water.

Confirming the direction he pointed out with this finger a while ago, the appearance of a person can only be seen vaguely.

(That feeling, I wonder if it's fine already...)

Immediately after Hayato felt relieved.

What he heard consecutively the sounds of the water of the bathtub

springing up.

– Oh my, we thought there was nobody here, but it seems there's a previous guest.

– You are right, hmm...?

Closing her eyes partly and staring at the direction of Hayato, it was Karen who raised her voice.

– Eh? Nii-san?

– Eh, is that Hayato-kun!?

Getting closer to Hayato, they kept hiding their chests with a towel.

– It really is Hayato-kun. Why are you here?

– Well, that.... I'll return to Little Garden today and I was thinking that I wanted to soak in an authentic hot spring in the end.

– I see, that's the same for us.

– But, why is Hayato-kun here? This is the women's bath...

– I also noticed that a while ago, however——

On that premise, Hayato continues.

– This time, it's like a mixed bath.

– Eh...!?

– Really?

Karen and Sakura gathered their voices.

Like Hayato, it seems that they didn't know that it was a mixed bath.

– That means that it's fine to soak in the hot spring together with Nii-san!

– That means that it's fine to soak in the hot spring together with Hayato-kun!

The two gather their voices again.

They enter full of motivation.

– No, I was already thinking of leaving this place so...

He's been soaking in the hot spring for more than what's enough already.
He's feeling dizzy.

– Say, Hayato-kun. Be patient for only a little more. Let's make some summer memories, the three of us.

– I think so too, Nii-san. Because this is something valuable, let's make some memories!

– He-hey...

Splash, Splash, Sakura and Karen who entered in the hot water from their legs shorten the distance as they wrapped the towel on their bodies.

– Hey, you.... You are getting too close.

– It's fine, isn't it? This is a rare chance.

– That's right. A rare chance it is.

Sakura from the right.

Karen from the left.

They approach until the distance of skin and skin touch each other.

Even if he tries to escape, he's in a shape where he's being hold between them, therefore he can't do so.

A sweet aroma hangs in the air.

That ends up reminding him of Emilia until some time ago.

– Stop, go away!

Hayato shouts.

As things are, a part of his body will end up becoming serious.

Moreover, one of the partners is his little sister.

Although everything was Emilia's fault, it's not good that he's not sensing that as his older brother.

And yet, they didn't try to go away.

– That reminds me, that guy's not here?

Saying that, Sakura glared at Hayato.

– That guy...?

– Emile Crossford. Before coming to the hot spring, more or less, I called out that guy and Hayato-kun, of course. But, since we didn't get a reply, we just came by ourselves... Weren't you together?

– Well, err... I tried to invite him, but there was no answer from him. Maybe he was sleeping soundly?

– If so, Hayato came alone to the hot spring?

– That's the truth.

– Actually, until a while ago, weren't you flirting with that guy?

– I-I wasn't!

– Is that true, I wonder?

The reason why Sakura has been persistent so far is because of the uncertainty of the kiss after they returned from the《Operation: Bird in Cage》.

– ... ah, wait a moment.

– Wh-what is it?

– It's the smell of a woman from Hayato-kun.

– Huh...? Ah, hey!

Sakura brings her nose to the shoulder of Hayato and begins to sniff.

– A woman? Is that true? What's the meaning of this, Nii-san!?

– Even if you say what does this mean...

– Ah, wait a minute. This, I recognize this smell...

Sakura brings her nose even more closer.

The soft swellings of her chest were touching his arm.

– Hey, stop! You are really too close!

– Hm? that's right. Sakura-san, you are getting too close to Nii-san!

– Hey, Karen-chan, what are you doing!?

Panicking, Karen pushed the body of Sakura with both hands and kept her away from Hayato.

– I-I'm sorry.... But, even if it's Sakura-san, it's too premature to touch Nii-san naked.... Th-that's why Karen, his little sister, will check the smell instead....

– H-hey... s-stop!

Hayato dodges the approaching Karen and tries to get out from the hot spring as he is and turned his back on Karen and Sakura.

– I'm leaving this moment!

– Hayato-kun!

– Nii-san!

The hands of Karen and Sakura that were stretched out to keep him in the hot spring cut off the air.

Hayato started to walk towards the changing room as he was, however,

– Ara, Hayato-kun.

In front of him, Kashiwagi Mihal was wrapping a towel around her body from the chest to the lower body.

Speaking of Hayato, who's naked...

– Ufufu, you are quite vigorous, don't you agree?

Looking at the lower half of the body of Hayato, Mihal slips out a smile.

– Uh, uwaaaaaa— — — —!

The face of Hayato was instantaneously dyed red and left the place with a dash, hiding the lower half of his body with a towel while panicking.

(She saw it, and moreover, she laughed!)

It was truly the worst.

(This is also all due to her!)

What floated on the head of Hayato was, of course, the face of Emilia.



– I know that you guys are reluctant to part, but if you don't move soon you won't be on time for the electric train. Because this is the countryside, electric trains are scarce, you know. If you miss getting on it, you won't be able to get on the airplane. Come on, get on the car.

– Bye-bye, Hayato!

– Sakura and Emile too, come again!

After having breakfast together, Hayato and the others decided to leave behind the institution after being sent off by 7 children.

– Well then, goodbye.

– Goodbye, Sakura!

– Karen, when you return from Little Garden, let's play some games together again, okay?

– Yes, of course.

Hayato and co. get in the car, exchanging goodbyes with each of the children.

– Hayato, do your best to protect the Earth!

– I will.

– Okay then, let's go.

When Ryōko says so, the engine starts, and the minivan starts to move.

They arrived at the station building immediately.

– Thank you for playing with the children, really. I'd be happy if everyone comes again during winter vacation as well.

– We'll try to do so as much as we can.

As soon as the electric train came, everyone gave their goodbyes to Ryōko and boarded the electric train which is going to the imperial capital, the capital city of the Empire of Yamato.

When they arrived at the imperial capital a little after lunch time, where they

had udon for lunch at the facility of Warslan, Hayato and co. boarded a transport plane.

– When we arrive to Little Garden, the Founding Festival will...

Hayato, who stopped his feet in the middle of the ramp, was looking at the scenery of Yamato, he didn't want to leave from there. Emile, who was right behind him, calls out Hayato.

– Hayato, you remember the promise, right?

– Do you mean the fireworks?

– Yeah, if you remember, then it's all good.

– Hayato-kun! Emile-san too, what are you dribbling about!? The pilot old man is saying that he's ready to leave!

Sakura calls out them from inside the transport aircraft.

– Let's go, Hayato.

– Yeah.

Hayato looks back just before getting on the transport plane and looks at the scenery of Yamato one more time, thinking from the bottom of his heart.

It would be nice if I could return home with everyone once again—.



– How about you? Did you recharge your batteries at ease in your hometown?

Charlotte Dimandius, the *main technologist* of Little Garden, met the returning Hayato and co. at the airport after their week of summer vacation came to an end.

– Yes, how about the side of Little Garden?

– There was no sortie in the past week, it's all tranquility and peace.

– Are the “three you-know-who” the same as usual?

– It was Emile who asked so all of a sudden.

The “three you-know-who” are probably those hunters who fought with them in the Zwei Islands and Mt. Kongur.

They were captured by Warslan mercenaries and now they are confined in a room in the basement of Little Garden.

It’s Judal Harvey, the older brother of the Student Council President of Little Garden, Claire Harvey, who ordered that.

– Absolutely no changes, just like before you headed to Yamato.

– In short, they aren’t talking, correct?

– Exactly. But, as a result of the strategy department of Warslan led by Judal who were diligent in their intelligence activities, it was possible to identify the location where Vitaly Tynyanov is hiding. That’s also thanks to Hayato-kun.

– ... eh, me?

Shaking abruptly, Hayato was astonished.

– The matter of《sympathy》.

– Ah...

He remembered that, in the aforementioned Mt. Kongur, he was striking and locking his sword against the sword of Krovahn, one of the three hunters.

At that moment, the *energy* that overflowed from each Hundred wrapped up their bodies, and a vision came up.

The figures of the very young Krovahn and Nesat, his older sister, are in front of his eyes.

The two were trying to escape from the orphanage that resembled a slave camp managed by the Middle East Private Military Company, Al-Salaam Company.

In the middle of that, Nesat ended up injuring her eye.

Eventually, they arrived at a village and met Vitaly Vitaly Tynyanov, a doctor who was introduced to treat her eye, and accepted to become artificial Variants.

That scene that he saw seemed to flow into his head for a moment.

Charlotte refers to that as《Sympathy》.

– There are research results where *sense energy* released from the human body is created by the strength of the human thought.

So to speak, that the Hundred will respond to your feelings.

– In other words, the source of his *energy* is the incident of his own past that I saw?

– Pretty much.

For this reason, then it's probable that what flowed into Hayato was the passing *energy*.

Sakura was thinking that Vitaly should atone for her sins in a proper way if they catch Vitaly.

– No, unfortunately, we didn't find her.

Charlotte shook her head to the left and right and replied.

– When we sensed and noticed something in particular, and the moment we headed there, the place was completely empty. We are after her whereabouts, but her whereabouts are still unclear.

– Is that so...?

Looking like she's regretting it, Sakura hides the part of the eyebrow closest to the nose.

– But, it was a very huge facility. Even if those weren't originally scattered, or if she's searching for the next place, I think it'll be difficult to rebuild them.

– That is to say, that it's unlikely that she'll come to save those three, right?

– I'd be fine if that's the case.

Charlotte showed an ambiguous smile because she didn't know something like that.

– Lastly, about the dragon type Savage that Charlotte said she was going to investigate.

– As usual, there are a couple of things that I don't know. Speaking of what I've found, perhaps that Savage might have been on this Earth from the days of the ancient times.

– Which means that it's not a lie to say that the Savages came to the Earth before the *First Attack*?

Emile narrows her eyes and gives voice to her doubt.

– But, since it's called the *First Attack*, that was the time when we, the human race, encountered the Savages, isn't it?

– Hayato-kun, I'm talking about the prehistory—before the creation of mankind.

It means that it's probable that the Savages came to the Earth before mankind was created on this planet.

– But, if that's the case, then what has been found before now is...

– That Savage appeared from the bottom of the lake in the mountain, yes? That might have been sleeping for thousands of years—no, for tens of thousands of years, that's why it wasn't spotted even by satellite photographs.

In other words, it's a place that is unknown to mankind, like the universe—it's the bottom of the deep sea, it looks like it's not weird to say that Savages are sleeping from ancient times in that place.

– From the geological formation of millions of years ago, we have also found fragments of meteorites whose composition closely resembles that of the *Variable Stones*. That seems to be of no surprise, assuming that the Savages came along with the meteorites to the Earth.

– Such a thing, I have never thought about it. Is that also the same for Karen-chan?

– ... yes.

Karen nodded with a serious expression.

– Well, it must be remembered that it's no more than a possibility, okay? Even though science has developed so much, there are still many things that are unknown to mankind. That's why, this is no more than fun for me.

Charlotte smiled with a grin,

– There are still things that I'd like to talk about, but you might be tired from the long trip, so let's have this much for today, don't you think? I'll get in touch with you again.

As she was leaving those words with them.

– Alright then, we are going back to the dorm, yes?

– I'm going to take Mihal-san and Karen-chan to the hospital room.

En masse, Hayato and co. step inside of Little Garden for the first time in a week.

The summer vacation was almost about to spell the end.

Chapter 2: The secret plan of Sakura and Karen *The envoy from Gudenburg* Divine Card

A couple of weeks after Hayato and co. returned from Yamato, the school district of Little Garden which fell completely silent during the summer vacation, was regaining its original hustle and bustle.

No, it might be even more than usual.

It's because everyone is more than nervous in some respects.

It's probably because of the preparations for the founding festival that is going to take place at the end of the month.

The founding festival——also called Gardens Festa, it's a festival held at the end of September that commemorates the start of Little Garden, and when speaking of an ordinary school, it's an event, the school festival.

Normally Little Garden sails the seven seas, but during the founding festival there is a HQ of Warslan in the harbor somewhere in the United States of Liberia——and only on the first day when the founding festival is held, ordinary citizens who usually can't watch it can step in Little Garden.

Since it's simply a school festival, in Little Garden the students become the center and perform events using stalls, stages and classrooms.

As a matter of course, there are many performances that are done with *Variable Stones* and Hundreds.

Nonetheless, Hayato, Emile and the rest of the members of *Selections* have guarding as their main duty.

There's also the thing about the three artificial Variants, and it's also necessary to think about the possibility that Vitaly will start a rescue operation.

For that reason, The Student Council of Little Garden is appealing to the dispatch of Slayers not only from Warslan Main Office, but also from the

Liberian Army and the allied countries with the United States of Liberia.

Hayato and Emile were excused to leave from the security duty during the morning of the day of the founding festival, the *mini live* of Kirishima Sakura in the middle of it and at the even held on the night after the last day of the festival.

And so, the founding festival also known as the 2nd Gardens Festa arrived a week later on the after school day.

Hayato parted with Latia and Fritz who are going to patrol Little Garden as members of *Selections* and when he was heading towards the dorm with Emile.

– Hey hey, what is Hayato going to do during the three hours in the morning?

Emile walks while asking Hayato as she takes a look at the pamphlet of the 2nd Gardens Festa that was just completed.

– That’s up to Karen.

– Oh, Hayato is going to see Karen-chan

– We haven’t talked about that yet. Since I got a break in the morning, I thought of doing so.

– Then, is it fine for me to join or it’s no good?

– I don’t mind.

– If so, I’ll ask Karen. If she says it’s impossible, then it can’t be helped. But, only one promise——

Emile approached her mouth close to the ear of Hayato and whispered to emphasize.

– Because the fireworks are just for the two of us.



Since he’s going to ask Karen immediately, Hayato parted with Emile on their way back to the dorm and visited the hospital room of his little sister.

Knock Knock, he knocks the door.

(... hmm?)

There's no reply.

– Hey, Karen.

He continued calling her out, but the usual reply wasn't there.

(Maybe she's sleeping?)

With that thought while opening the door, the figure of Karen who was sitting and had a part of the top of the bed raised and the figure of Karen who was sitting on the chair placed on the side of the bed met his eyes.

They are a pair of lovers—no, going into a huddle like sisters, they put one side of the earphones connected to the laptop that was placed on the long and narrow table equipped on the bed in one of their ears.

– Oh, Nii-san.

Karen shows a sort of surprised look and turns her eyes to Hayato.

– Eh, Hayato-kun's here?

Sakura also is showing a surprised-like expression on her face and turned her line of sight to Hayato.

– What are you two listening to?

– Eh, err... that's, well... ah, kyaah!?

It's probably because of trying to operate the laptop.

The arms of Karen ended entwining with the cord and the earphone disconnects from the jack.

As a result, there was a rhythmical melody that echoed in the hospital room.

Then, a familiar voice flows out.

– This is Karen's voice, isn't it...?

– Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!

Her face turning bright red, Karen hurries to close the lid of the laptop vigorously.

– Rising a loud voice like that so suddenly, what’s the matter? What is going on here...?

– We were thinking of trying to keep this a secret to Hayato, but now that it has become to this, it’s no use, huh.

Sakura sighs deeply looking like she gave up.

– Please wait a moment Sakura-san. By any chance, are you going to tell Nii-san?

– At any rate, we planned to tell him next week, so it’s fine already, isn’t it?

– But, I have to prepare myself...

– You girls, what are you really up to...?

Hayato points a suspicious line of sight towards the dubious two.

– Of course you know that my *mini live* is going to take place at the Gardens Festa, don’t you?

– The one I was entrusted with by the President and the vice presidents, right?

– That’s right, that one.

Although she’s kind of a “special student”, she’s a member of Little Garden.

It seems that there was a suggestion from the side of the students that they wanted to do a “live”.

Nonetheless, that’s not the intention of Claire and the Student Council.

It was the request from the residents of Little Garden who couldn’t see the previous *live* in the side of Sangria.

– There are things like returning the favor for always going in and out and of course the fees paid to the performing artists that aren’t earned*. But they decided to entrust all the matters to me. That’s when I thought. As a surprise, let’s get Karen to do an entry on the stage!

***TN: What she meant is that the people who got paid didn’t give the service they were paid for at that moment, so the people didn’t get what they want.**

– ... huh? What are you talking about?

– I'm saying that Karen-chan will sing a song during my *mini live*.

– Is that true?

– Of course it's true. There are amateur bands and concerts at the Gardens Festa, so there's nothing wrong with that.

– But, I'm sure that your *mini live* will be streamed all over the world on the *cybernet*, right?

– Eh, is that so?

Karen shows a surprised look.

Apparently, Sakura didn't inform her about that.

– To be honest, yeah, it is. But, if it's the skill that Karen-chan has a singer, it'll be fine. Hayato also understands that when he listened to it.

Saying so, Sakura reaches for the laptop.

Karen then hurriedly takes the laptop that is before her eyes in her hands, holds it with her arms and shouted as her face turns bright red.

– Sakura-san please stop! This, being listened by Nii-san is embarrassing!

There's nothing to feel embarrassed now. A lot of people have already listened to it, and from here, it will be listened even more.

– Uu.... but...

Karen pouts her lips.

– You were saying that this was listened by a lot of people so, what do you mean with that?

Hayato asked while cocking his head in puzzlement.

That's because those words were worrying him.

– Actually, I uploaded and published a song of Karen-chan to the music sharing service on the *cybernet*. Karen-chan. Prepare yourself and return the laptop.

Sakura extends her hand, but Karen only shakes her head to the left and right.

– Even if you aren't going to hand it over, the song of Karen-chan is in my PDA anyway.

Smiling with mischief, Sakura takes the PDA out of the pocket.

– Uu, Sakura is unkind.... I understand, I will return it.

Karen reluctantly handed over the laptop to Sakura.

– Well then, shall we listen the continuation of moments ago?

Sakura opens the laptop on the table installed on the bed again and starts to use it.

Then, the music began to sound.

It's a jaunty overture, like the songs of Sakura.

– I created the song. It's wonderful, right?

Saying that, Sakura brings her body close to his back.

– Well, I get that you are amazing.

It seems her boobs are touching him.

Because he can't concentrate, he separates from the body of Sakura and listens to the music again.

It was just when the prelude ended, and the singing began to be heard.

One minute and thirty seconds.

Hayato kept listening carefully to Karen's song.

– It's good...

That's his impression.

– REALLY!?

The expression of Karen who raised her face turns bright in no time.

– Frankly, I was surprised. I thought it was good, but I wasn't expecting it to be this good.

– Ehehe... is, that so...? Thank you very much, Nii-san.

When Hayato told his upfront impressions, Karen smiled looking

embarrassed.

Next to her, Sakura has a satisfying expression on her face.

– Hey, that’s exactly what I was saying, isn’t it? Also, this song is very popular on the *cybernet*.

– Are you serious...?

– Yeah, the number of views is around 100k and its valuation is superb. I already have made it public that the singer is a resident of Little Garden and there are rumors that I created the song. If Karen-chan appears during the *live* and sings, that will definitely be very exciting. At the same time when I registered it on the music download distribution site, it ranked very high in the charts as expected!

– This is selling!?

Karen raised a hysteric voice.

It looks like she didn’t hear about the selling.

– After all, if we are creating the song of Karen-chan like this, then you are going to want to produce Idol activities. When I said that to Souffle, she said that she didn’t see the problem and I also wanted to create songs that will be sung by us, not only be me. So I was wondering if it’s fine if that other person is Karen-chan. Or it’s no good?

– Errrrr...

Karen seems quite puzzled by the sudden invitation of Sakura.

– Karen-chan doesn’t want to debut or sing with me?

– Rather than disliking it, I haven’t thought about it to that extent.

– Then, I wonder if you can think about it. If Karen-chan debuts and plays an active role, I think we can give dreams and hopes to Kei-chan and those who suffer from the same disease as Karen-chan. Don’t you think that thing is very wonderful?

– I do think so but...

The end of the sentence of Karen gets smaller.

– In that case, let's do it together.

While saying so, she takes the arm of Karen.

– Ah, yes...

– Hooray!

She forced her way, somehow.

If you want to know the truth, it's very against her will.

Sakura continues her words.

– That's right, once Lunaltia Base is completed, what if we do a concert on the surface of the moon? The first humans. Our names will last forever!

– Well, that's.... as expected, going that far is... besides, the moon... is it?

– Hey, stop now. Karen is dragged into that too, you know!? Besides, even though she's doing it pretty well, don't make Karen do the unreasonable.

– But, dreams are important. If that feeling is strong, her body will surely be able to adapt to unknown viruses. The Hundred responds to our feelings.

– Yes, but...

Being corrected, he sees Karen on the bed.

Although she was walking within her limitations in the middle of their return to Yamato, her body didn't become completely free.

As usual, she's most of her daily life in a bed or wheelchair.

– Anyhow, singing a song, can you do a *live* in that state?

– There's a secret plan for that.

– ... a secret plan?

– Yeah, that's still a secret plan. Isn't that right, Karen-chan?

– Oh, yes. A secret plan.

「「Right!?!」」

And the two of them look at each other's face.

Ultimately, Hayato couldn't get to know the secret plan of Sakura that day.



Going back 2 days in time, when Little Garden came alongside Sangria harbor.

Three days till the founding festival, the 2nd Gardens Festa arrives.

Not only the students but also the citizens and everyone are in the middle of the preparations with a cheerful-ish mood.

– I’m using Silver Blitz to do acrobatics here.

Immediately after they finished lunch at the courtyard, something barked with a 「Bark」at the feet of Alphonse Brewstadt, a young man with a good physique and a classmate.

It has the figure similar to a dog, but its color is silver, it does indeed look like a robot, so it’s not a real dog.

It’s the terminal that Alphonse Brewstadt created with his Hundred in his hand, the handling ability of the Tamer type which is, in other words, his weapon.

Silver Blitz is its name, he gave it to it.

– Because we’ll rehearse the performance for the very day of the Gardens Festa from now on, Hayato and everyone, look at us.

Alphonse said to Hayato who’s sitting in front of the table.

– I’d like to do that if possible, however.

Hayato answers, looking apologetic.

– Do you have something to do after this?

– Together with Emile, we’ll have to go and greet the Slayers of Gudenburg who will help with the security of the founding festival.

– Ah, I see. But, why Hayato and Emile?

– There’s an acquaintance of Emile among the Slayers of Gudenburg.

It was Latia who butted into the conversation.

– Yup, an old friend of mine.

Replies Emile.

– Is that perhaps a girl? And the one who's in a love relationship with Emile?

Alphonse asks with a mix of excitement.

– Well, something like that.

And, it was Fritz who was butting into the conversation to banter with them. Then Emile stood up in anger and beat the desk with both hands.

– Don't say such a foolish thing, Fritz! It'll be misunderstood.

– But, that girl seemed to be yearning for you. Maybe she's jealous of Hayato who's always at your side.

– Does that mean that Kisaragi-san and Crossford-san were making out during the operation!?

It's their classmate, Noah Sheldon, who asks excitedly.

Next, Shuemei lands an additional blow to the unfortunate situation.

– Come to think of it, even at the rally meeting on the day before the operation, Emile-san and Hayato-san disappeared stealthily, didn't they...?

– What's, with that...? It smells very fishy!

The eyes of both Noah and Shuemei shine, but of course, they don't know that the real identity of Emile is the one of a woman and also the princess of Gudenburg.

That also applies to Fritz and Latia, as well as to Alphonse.

The only ones who know in Little Garden are the members of the Student Council and Charlotte Dimandius, the *main technologist*.

Even so, it seems that this reaction is because they are dubious about the relation between men——the so called “boys love”.

Such a thing has happened many times so far.

– I'm telling you, we don't have that kind of weird relationship, we are just childhood friends... isn't it?

– That's right, we were apart for quite a long time and also because we felt

like this 10 years ago!

– But Sakura-san said that you two are suspicious. And it may be even more than that. And also that everyone should monitor you—

– How can she say such a thing?

They thought that they could solve this misunderstanding already, but apparently, they didn't.

BIP, BIP...

– Ah, this is bad.

The PDA of Hayato in his uniform pocket began to make a sudden sound.

After retrieving it and checking it, the name of the president is displayed on the display.

[It's time desuwayo. What on earth are you doing masuno!?!]

At the same time he answers the call, an angry voice can be heard close to the ear.

– I'm sorry, president.... Now, I have finished eating with Emile at the cafeteria...

[Come to the front of the school gate of the Martial Arts Department right away desu. Are we clear desuwane?]

✖ ✖ ✖

– You finally came shitawane.

It was almost at the very same time when Hayato and Emile got into a car and arrived at the airport section and joined in front of the school gate with Erika Candle and Liddy Steinberg, the vice presidents of the Student Council of Little Garden and Claire Harvey, the president of the Student Council who said so looking amazed.

A transport aircraft that carried Slayers of the Kingdom of Gudenburg of the Federation of Britannia lands on the runway.

When Hayato and the others walked to the side of the transport aircraft along with the staff, the Slayers of the army of the Kingdom of Gudenburg came down the stairs of the ramp connected to the hatch.

Among them, they can see many faces that remember them of the 《Operation: Bird in Cage》.

– Ah, she came out.

Immediately after Emile murmured so.

– It's been a long time, **Emilia**-sama!

It was one of the Slayers of the army of Gudenburg, Claudia Lowetti, the childhood friend and relative of Emile Crossford alias Emilia Hermit who came running down the ramp while shouting

It looks like she cannot help but be happy for reuniting for first time in a month and a little.

She rushes over to **Emilia** with a full smile on her face and hugged her tightly.

Speaking of Emile aka **Emilia** who faces her, she raised her eyebrows with anger and pulled Claudia away from her body with both hands on her face.

– What *ade* you *thoing*, Emilia-sama?

– I'm not doing nothing, jeez. In Little Garden, most people don't know my true identity. So why don't you stop calling me Emilia?

Emilia said looking amazed.

– *Fut*, that's not a problem *rith* now, isn't it? It looks like here are only the ones of Little Garden side who know your real identity, *coddect*?

*TN: For the previous lines of Claudia, take into consideration that Emilia was pushing her away with her hands on her face, so her hands cover her mouth, that's why she says some words in a weird way.

– That's true, however.

Aside from Hayato and Emile, Little Garden side consists of Claire Harvey, the president and two other people——the vice presidents Liddy Steinberg and Erika Candle.

The Gudenburg side also knew a lot of faces.

And at that time.

Emile's line of sight was taken away by the man descending from the ramp.

Her surprised eyes are rounded.

– Gerard Kilfelthar...

– It's been a long time, Emilia-sama.

The man whose name was called, approached the side of Emile and kneeled.

It's a sharp-eyed man with short light-brown hair.

(Who's this guy...?)

Hayato turned his line of sight to the man as he became concerned.

Maybe he's in his mid-thirties?

Therefore, he's not a Slayer, probably.

His clothes seem to be of those of the army of Gudenburg, but unlike Claudia, there are a lot of decorations.

Even considering his attitude towards Emile, the man's eyes are directed to Hayato who whether he was a high official of Gudenburg or something.

– You are the kid of that time——Kisaragi Hayato, huh?

The man said, casting a sharp glance at his face.

– That time...?

He didn't understand what he said so suddenly.

– At the time of the *Second Attack*.

– Hmm, did we meet somewhere? Around that time, I got an injury on my head, so some memories are missing...

– Hayato, Kilfelthar is my watcher and also the person who rescued us.

– Eh...? Then, that means——

Even though he rescued her, the tone of Emile indicates he's not her benefactor. Rather than that, it's more like a sense of caution against Kilfelthar.

Hayato also understands the reason.

It reminds him of that time.

The pincer of the Savage tore the dress to pieces, grazed her chest and after that he sucked out the poison to save the injured Emilia.

Hayato felt a dull pain in the back of the head when the poison rose to his body and when his consciousness was vague, he fainted.

– Maybe the memory of Hayato-kun is vague because of that time. Then, let me apologize as I did something inexcusable. It was confusing due to the state of emergency.

– After all, I was hit?

– Yeah, he misunderstood that Hayato was trying to attack me, so Kilfelthar, the body guard, hit you with the grip of his small gun. After explaining the circumstances, I forced him to leave Hayato with me.

Saying that, Emile glares at Kilfelthar.

– So, what is Kilfelthar doing here? It was father's order? Because I'm not going to go back to the country.

– I know. We just came to see the leadership and management of the Slayers who came to Little Garden and also the face of Emilia-sama. And, the greetings aren't over yet.

Kilfelthar stretched out his hand with his body facing towards Claire.

– You are the captain of this ship— —Claire Harvey-sama, correct? I am Gerard Kilfelthar, a high official of the Kingdom of Gutenberg, Federation of Britannia.

– Nice to meet you, Gerard. And yes, it is as you say, I am the captain of Little Garden, Claire Harvey desuwa. Thank you very much for dispatching valuable Slayers to we, Little Garden, from a long distance in this occasion masu.

– Not at all, that goes for us to, as we were thinking that we would learn all sort of things, so we are indebted to Little Garden. Besides, it seems that you were taking care of Princess Emilia...

– Wait a minute. Stop with that sort of conversation. I already have nothing to do with the Kingdom of Gudenburg!

Emile, who exposed her indignation towards Kilferthar, pointed her eyes to Claire next.

– Prez, the reception has ended, so it's fine if we return already, right? Hayato, let's go.

– H-hey...

Emile grabs the arm of Hayato and tries to leave from this place.

There, the voice of Claudia arrived.

– Please wait, Emilia-sama!

– What?

Emile looks towards Claudia who called her to halt.

– It's only a little, but there's something that I have to talk with you.

The expression of such Claudia is really serious.

– To talk? And about what?

– That's, well...

– It's not a bad conversation regarding Emilia-sama.

It was Kilfelthar who tossed a lifeboat to Claudia who hesitated to speak.

However, Emilia doesn't seem to take those words obediently.

– I don't believe you...

She's becoming very suspicious since she noticed something suspicious.

It was Claire who pushed the back of Emile.

– It's a rare reunion, so isn't it alright to listen to them for a while, I wonder?

– I think so too. Listen to her for a while.

– ... Hayato is saying that it's fine if they bring me back to Gudenburg?

– I'm not saying anything like that. Besides, the founding festival will be up after this. It's not like they are going to bring you back to Gudenburg just like

this.

- You are right, but...
- If so, then eat together and listen to their story.
- Then, Hayato is coming along too.
- It's just that if I go, I'll be a hindrance to her.
- That's true, but...

Claudia stares fixedly at Hayato.

It was Claire who cut into the conversation there.

– Emile Crossford, you are an important existence to Little Garden desu. If this turns inconvenient to you, then please discuss it with us. We will absolutely not let it be something bad to you masenwa.

- *Annoyed*, fine... then, I'll go.

Hayato, who decided to part with Claire and the Student Council group as they had to communicate security arrangements and so forth and sent off Emile and the Slayers to the quarters, returned to the school building of the Martial Arts Department.

This afternoon everyone is free, so he was assigned to fundamental training time.

It's time to build up his physical strength and so he's going to work hard at the training room in the underground of the school.

- ——ah what?

When Hayato descended from the car in front of the school gate and walked towards the training room, four people who he knew approached him.

Karen is in the wheelchair, and Kashiwagi Mihal, the nurse in charge of Karen is pushing that wheelchair—the one walking to their side is Sakura who's talking to Karen and Charlotte Dimandius who's leading those three.

- Why are you guys here?

Hayato asks while having his eyes wide open.

It's certain that there are four people in this place, but the most surprising thing is that Karen is wearing a black Variable Suit.

– Why is Nii-san here...?

In the wheelchair, Karen was staring in wonder.

– To think that you were walking in the corridor at this time, huh.

– Hayato-kun, what about your classes?

– I was invited by the President and the Student Council members and went to the airport district to welcome the people from Gudenburg.

Following Charlotte, Hayato answers Sakura who questioned with a strong tone.

– I see, so that's how it is.

Apparently, Mihal seemed to be convinced.

– Err, can I ask a question this time?

– *Why is Karen wearing a Variable Suit, correct?*

Before he speaks of his doubt, Charlotte answers.

– Yes...

– What are guys going to do? If it has become to this, why not showing that to Hayato-kun?

– Eh, well...

The troubled Karen looks up at Sakura.

She can't make a decision on her own.

She was turning her eyes like saying "I'll leave this to Sakura".

– ... oh well, we were planning to surprise him for real on very day, but it can't be helped if it has become to this.

As she gave up, Sakura takes a breath and continues her words.

– Karen-chan, let's show it to Hayato-kun. Our secret plan——



– Why in this place...?

It was the practice ground in the basement of Little Garden where they arrived doing as they were told by Sakura. It's a place to do training of Hundred and the like.

– Nii-san. Actually, Karen also had operation ability of the Hundred.

– Eh?

While sitting in the wheelchair, Karen took out a dim red shining Hundred that was shaped like a diamond and showed it to Hayato.

– Wait a moment. When you took the test with me, it was said that the Hundred wasn't suitable for you...

For this reason, Karen suffered from the disease as a harmful effect.

– That's true, however...

Troubled, Karen turns her line of sight to Charlotte.

Then, Charlotte began to explain.

– It's because Little Garden is a special environment. The air in this enclosed space also contains special particles that help restore *energy*. There are people who awaken their operation ability of the Hundred while passing time in it, and some people get reaction values and the diseases of the people are cured. Besides, Karen is taking medicine for her treatment as well. It's no wonder that she can awaken her operation ability due to those effects.

– Please wait a moment, Charlotte-san. By medicine, you mean the one that turns you into an artificial Variant, isn't that...

– What we are doing is something similar. However, that's also part of the treatment. Besides, the medicine isn't strong, so be relieved, okay? And actually, the symptoms of Karen-kun are getting better and there are no side effects.

– But...

– Are you worried?

– Yes.

– If so, Karen-kun, why don't you make him be relieved by showing your deployed Hundred——《Sacred Miracle》*Divine Card*?

– U-understood.

– Are you sure, Karen-chan?

– ... yes.

Karen got down from the wheelchair by herself although with an unsteady walk until she took a distance of 5 meters from Hayato and the others.

– Then, here I go——*HUNDRED ON!*

When Karen grasped tightly the Hundred in the hand, it changed to a single card. Its size is pretty much the same of a playing card.

Looking at it, Hayato murmurs.

– Is that, tarot...I wonder?

It looks exactly like the ones Karen uses for fortune telling habitually.

– Yes. That's how we decided the shape of the armament of Karen-kun.

It's Charlotte who nodded.

– Shape of the armament? In other words, it hasn't taken that form yet?

– That's right. Like the Hundred of Emile Crossford and Kirishima Sakura, that's also a Hundred of special shape. Take a look at it, it's very interesting.

When he noticed, Karen was holding the card towards the sky.

– Card-san, please help me with the essential armament for the *live*!

When Karen said so, the card that showed an intense radiance turned into particles and changed into six huge cards that began to rotate with the body of Karen as the center of them.

The cards draw near the body of Karen.

Simultaneously with the binding, they extinguished while releasing an intense

light.

She wore a pretty skirt that was colored with black and pink, frills were piled up over and over again and the suit without gaps looked like a swimsuit based on white.

Her long black hair is tied with a big ribbon that turned it to a ponytail and there's also a decoration of wings of a butterfly around her waist.

– How is it? With this one the *live* seems doable, right? She does indeed feel like an Idol.

It's Sakura who said so.

Dyeing her face red, Karen opens her mouth while squirming.

– Nii-san, how do I look?

– Well, that's.... I think it suits you but...

– ?

– Isn't the exposure a little too much?

– Hyaa!

Suddenly blushing, the look of Karen dyes red.

Probably because she was getting aware of that.



Although there are decorations around the head and waist, since the skirt is too short, the shoulders also come out.

– But, she's pretty Idol-like, right?

– I guess so...

It's a bit complicated as her older brother.

– Hmm, if you are in an armed state, you can stand straight, right?

Hayato asks a question, noticing that Karen is standing firmly with her two feet unlike some time ago.

– Yes, thanks to the armaments of the feet.

Looking closely, certainly there was something like gears on her feet.

– Those are supposed to support her movement.

It's Charlotte who added that explanation.

– Karen-chan, show to Hayato-kun that you can move.

– Understood.

Karen gushes out energy from the gear at her feet and started to move lightly and smoothly like gliding on the ground.

It looked as if she was doing ice skating.

– Awesome, right...?

– She had a hard time until she was able to move this well.

It was Mihal who said so.

– ——however, when compared with other Slayers, her growth was quite fast. Like Hayato-san, Karen seems to have a lot of talent as well. Maybe it's because she had a clear dream of becoming an Idol thanks to Sakura-san.

The Hundred responds to the feelings.

Those words passed by the mind of Hayato.

– Karen-chan. It's enough. Next is Mode Change. The costume that it seems to

be the favorite of Hayato-kun.

– Ah, right... Understood.

– Mode Change? You mean full armament, perhaps?

– Nope. It means Karen-chan can do something like I can do, which is to change costumes. However, it's slightly different from me. Well, you'll notice when you see it.

Being told so by Sakura, Hayato turns his eyes to Karen again.

Thereupon, Karen shouted, sticking out her right hand.

– Card Shuffle! Mode Change!

Then, a tarot card appeared before Karen's eyes.

Grabbing that, Karen puts it overhead.

– Tarot-san, properly armed this time!

Then the card, by showing a violent brilliance once again, turns into six huge cards that were covering the body of Karen.

The difference this time is that the mark on the back of the cards is a long spear.

The cards bind with the body of Karen and disappear as light.

Then the body of Karen was covered with a thick armor unlike a while ago.

A long spear as well as the mark that appeared on the cards is also held in her hand.

– Wh-whoaaaaaaaaa!

– Hey, Karen. You ok?

The panicking Hayato caught in his arms the body of Karen whose feet became unstable because she withstood the weight of the spear.

– I'm sorry, Nii-san. As expected, it's no good to be armed like this...

– As expected, you say? Don't tell me that you chose this?

– ... yes.

Karen nodded.

Hayato understood while looking that it's possible for her to change it to various forms using *Divine Card* like Emile's *Arms Shroud*, but apparently it isn't so.

– Actually, I don't exactly know to what the armament will change.

– In short, you can't control the armament yet?

– It looks like it can be operated to some extent depending on the mental attitude and the situation of the moment, or perhaps I should say to control it, but something that I'm not even expecting from time to time will be deployed...

– It's the same as Tarot. And its name, *Divine Card*, it's just as the phrase says: God only knows.

It was Charlotte who said so.

– Karen-kun's Hundred is also special— —I dare to say is a Fortune type. That's because of its characteristics.

According to Charlotte, the armament based on the Hundred of Karen is said to be automatically chosen depending on the situation.

– Well, you can operate it with *preprogramming* to a certain extent, but there are moments that you can't do anything, like now. When that happens, it's the best if you deploy it again. The thing is that your *energy* will be exhausted though.

– Besides, as she continued training in this way, her precision ended up increasing considerably and I'm sure her *live* performance will go smoothly. Even if she fails, it's better to laugh than think and being caught by it. In short, think positive, it's important to be *positive*. So Hayato-kun, don't worry!

Sakura said, looking as she has nothing to do with what is going on at all.

– Hey, even if you are saying so...

The anxiety won't change.

– It's not going to be dealt with by ordinary means if she operates the Hundred while singing like Sakura, so it's better if she only moves, don't you

think?

In fact, even his classmates are struggling to use the Hundred.

– If she falls into a dangerous situation, I'll support her properly, so it's fine.

Sakura raises her thumb while saying that, but nevertheless, she's worried as well.

It looks like Mihal noticed such feeling of Hayato.

– If I judge that it's dangerous, then I will interrupt and cancel the armament immediately even when she's in the middle of the *live*. So, please be relieved.

– Understood, if Mihal-san says so...

– Hey, Hayato-kun. Why didn't you trust what I said, but you trust what Mihal-san said!?

– That's because Mihal-san is a nurse. So it's natural to trust her.

– Fuun.... Well, whatever.

Saying that, Sakura didn't appear to be convinced.

Continuing, she declares to Hayato with a harsh tone of voice.

– Because I'm going to be practicing with Karen-chan after this, Hayato-kun will have to go.

– Eh, I'm not allowed to watch the practice?

– Watching the singing itself is the enjoyment of the performance. And because I'm absolutely not going to lose. So, look forward to it, okay?

Chapter 3: Gardens Festa *Maid Café* Mini-live

And so, the day of the founding festival aka Gardens Festa came at last.

In the stadium of Little Garden, a ceremony before the opening was being held.

While being watched attentively by many spectators, and following the salutations of Judal Harvey, the company president of Warslan Company, the Queen of Little Garden, Claire Harvey, stands on the stage and declares.

– From here on, we will be hosting the 2nd Little Garden Founding Festival also known as the 2nd Gardens Festa masu.

Boom Boom, together with the guns loaded with blanks that resound informing the opening of the festival, the whole Little Garden began to bustle right away.

– Good job, Hayato.

It's Fritz Grantz, one of the members of *Selections* and also their classmate who called out to Hayato and Emile who were guarding near the entrance of the stadium. Behind him is Liddy Steinberg, one of the vice presidents.

Both of them, like Hayato and Emile, were wearing their Variable Suits.

Liddy said to them.

– Your work for now is done. Enjoy yourselves till noon.

– We are supposed to do the guidance of the exit of the opening ceremony.

– If so, shall we go around the venue after this?

–

– Hey, Emile.

– Eh, what?

– Haven't you heard our conversation right now?

- Looks like he was somewhat absentminded, maybe he doesn't feel good?
- No, I'm not ill or anything like that... why, is something wrong?
- Because our work is done for now.
- Eh, is that so? If so, shall we look around the venue?
- I just said that, you know.

Spontaneously, Hayato makes a wry smile.

But, he was relieved that Emile was regaining her usual smile.

As he said earlier, he was noticing that Emile has been frequently absentminded these days.

- Emile Crossford. The immoderate is forbidden. Are we clear?

Emile responded firmly to Liddy who said to call her attention.

- Yeah, I know.

Thus, smiling cheerfully to show that she's the same as always,

- Let's go then, Hayato.

The founding festival mainly consists of elementary, middle and high school students in the center of Little Garden——the training grounds in the stadium, a part of the senior high school martial arts department school——and finally, the many shops lined up, turn Central district in the main stage.

Most of the students do their performances there.

The popular events that are involved with Slayers are many as expected

Among them, being particularly popular are the Hundred's aptitude test conducted in the auditorium and the coaching of Slayers for talented young people to handle Hundred that is held at the training grounds——that is, sham battles at the stadium and a play that used Hundred which also took place at the stadium.

Nonetheless, those are mainly done by second and third-year students of the martial arts department, the first-year students, aside from security, they are in the Central district and are administrating restaurants and the like with people

of other departments.

Hayato and Emile decided to head towards Central district after they saw the success of the Hundred related event venues.

Originally, he tried to look around with his little sister Karen as planned, but he was told that she had to decline because it was complicated as she has to prepare for the *live concert*, so two people are doing this.

Without including the traveling time, their free time was no more than two hours and a little, so they decided to have lunch a little early.

– Hmm, what should we eat, I wonder?

While walking through the shopping street, Emile looks at the board that was placed in front of the shop while turning her head to the left and right with a restless look.

Today, every store has students that prepare food.

Therefore, their menus are specials, so it seems she can hardly decide.

– Oh, they're Hayato and Emile, aren't they?

– Hmm?

Hayato stopped his feet due to the sudden voice that reached them. They were amazed, looking at the figures of Latia Saint-Émilion, a classmate of them and who's also a member of the same *Selections* and Erika Candle, one of the vice presidents, who stand in front of them.

– Umm, why are both of you dressed like that?

She asked so was because they were wearing maid uniforms.

– Kisaragi Hayato, please listen. This is different!

Turning her bright red face, Erika starts to excuse all of a sudden.

That'd be natural.

They should be in the middle of guarding now.

– Why are both of you dressed like that?

– Let us explain that.

It wasn't Erika who answered the doubt of Hayato.

It's their classmate, Noah Sheldon, who appeared from inside the store.

Behind her is Ryu Shuemei, also their classmate.

– Noah-san.... And Shuemei-san too...

Both of them are wearing maid clothes like Latia and Erika.

Apparently, this store seems to be working with the *concept* of a “maid café”.

– Do both of you work here?

– Yes, as you can see.

Shuemei who was inquired by Emile and answered with a bashful look, began to talk about the reasons why Latia and Erika are wearing maid uniforms like themselves.

According to her, and before the opening, a considerable line was made in the maid café, the clerks aren't enough, it was a chaos.

Latia and Erika who were in the middle of their guarding happened to pass by and although they decided to help, it was said that they were going to wear maid clothes if that was the case as well.

– We didn't expect that it was going to get so crowded from the morning, they really saved us.

– Weeell, thanks to that, we were able to see such a figure of the vice prez. Because it's rare, let's take a picture.

Emile activates the camera function of the PDA taken out from the pocket and readied it, turning it towards Erika.

– Hey, Emile Crossford, stop!

Erika stretched out her hands and tried to hide her face, but Emile took a photo just before that.

– Ah, taking photos, taking photos.

Looking at the PDA screen, she smiled happily.

Hayato looks into it.

Although her hands reach out to Emile with her face turning deep red, the uniform of Erika was being photographed properly.

– Let's show these to the prez next time.

– Wha! Delete them, Emile Crossford!

– I don't want to!

When Erika reaches out to her with her hands again and tries to snatch the PDA, Emile evaded her nimbly, raising her hand high.

– In the first place, the vice prez always pours black tea to the prez, so isn't she like a maid? I think it suits you perfectly.

– That's only because Claire-sama is delighted with the delicious black tea that I make... wait!

– Umm...

The puzzled Shuemei and co. are looking the two who started to chase one another.

At any rate, both are the elite of the elite in Little Garden.

Well, now they are behaving like children, as a matter of course.

Latia laughs happily, looking at that situation.

– Right, that... why are Kisaragi-san and Emile-san here? Are you patrolling?

Shuemei asks as she completely rethought about it.

– No, we are on our break now.

– Is that so?

It's Noah who bowed her head in assent.

– Since it's absolutely necessary to return to guarding again from noon, we came to Central while thinking of where to eat at once.

– Ah, if you haven't lunch yet, then by all means have lunch at our shop. You still have time, right?

– We still have an hour but...

Answering Noah, Hayato tried to look inside the shop.

However, he can't see well with the frosted glass.

– It's not crowded inside, is it?

– Right now it's dead time until noon when the customers who came after the opening of the shop will return. If it's now, you can enter without standing in a line. However, it may take a while before we deliver food.

– Hayato, what kind of conversation are you having with Noah-san and Shuemei-san?

Emile was approaching his side while saying so.

It looks like the chasing with the vice president has ended.

Emile got away, seeing that Erika is breathing repeatedly with difficulty and with both knees and hands on the ground.

– I thought of having our meal here. What do you think?

– If Hayato is okay with it then why not?

– In that case, we are lunching here, I guess?

Because they were talking in front of the store for quite a while like this, it seems they've been disturbing the business.

They ought to return it by eating there.

– Yay!

– Thank you very much.

Noah bows her head and Shuemei says her words of delightful gratitude.

– Well then, two customers are coming in.

Latia said, loosening her mouth and grinning as she opened the door of the shop.

– ... ah, are you still an employee?

– Oh, now that you mention it, you're right. It's almost time to return to our original outfits, isn't it?

There were around 10 maids inside the shop arranged in an interior of antique style.

Most of them are classmates of the martial arts department.

– Everyone looks splendid, don't you agree?

– Does that mean, me as well? I will feel embarrassed if Kisaragi-san says such a thing to me.

Kyaa, holding both hands on her cheeks, Noah makes her cheeks go red.

Thereupon, forcing her way through from the side, Shuemei – Noah, it doesn't mean that he said it to you only! This also suits me, isn't it, Kisaragi-san?

– Y-yeah...

– But, it looks better on me, right?

– Well, that...

Two girls in maid uniform are before him.

Moreover, because they are looking into his face, leaning forward, his heart beats fast.

She probably noticed the state of Hayato.

– ... Hayato, do you like maids?

Emile asks with a cold tone of voice.

– Well, that... I like it, or perhaps I should say that if you are man, then you like everyone?

– Fuun.

– Even you who's a man should understand that somehow.

– – Wha.... Certainly, I understand that they are cute in those clothes, but...

– If so, how about wearing it?

Erika finished changing clothes from maid to her uniform and said so.

When they noticed, she's coming to the side of the table with Latia who also finished changing clothes.

– How can you say something like trying to wear that!?

– Emile Crossford, you have a pretty-ish face and long hair, so I'm sure it will suit you.

– That means, you are going to cross dress!

Shouting with excitement, Noah continued.

– As the vice president says, Emile-san has a beautiful face and I think it will definitely look good on you. Why don't you certainly try it and do it? Isn't fine to have such an enjoyable event like this in the long-awaited founding festival?

– Wait, Erika-san... This flow is really bad...

Hayato whispers into Erika's ear.

– ... it's revenge.

– Eh...?

– I'm taking revenge of moments ago. And the revenge is doubled. It's natural, don't you agree?

Apparently, Erika seems to be angry about the photos.

– But, if the secret of Emile is leaked out...

– There's a changing room for men in this shop, so there won't be a problem, right? Besides, Kisaragi Hayato. Don't you want to see Emile Crossford in maid clothes?

– Huh...?

That question is unfair.

Imagining her to the best of his ability in his mind, then it will definitely suit her, she'll look good in it.

– Kisaragi Hayato, what are you chatting so secretly with the vice president?

– No, it's nothing, nada.

Hayato evades it while laughing, throwing doubts at Latia.

When he noticed, Emile was being pushed on her back by Noah and Shuemei.

- Now, Emile-san. Quickly until it's time for the cooking to be ready!
- That's right, let's go!
- Uwaa, wait a minute! Besides, I haven't ordered yet, you know!?
- If so, *omurice** is the recommendation, will that do, I wonder?

***TN: Omelet with a filling of seasoned fried rice.**

Says Noah.

- No, even if you say such a thing.
- It's fine, isn't it? It's really delicious.

Continued Shuemei.

- Wait, save me, Hayato!
- Err...

In the end, Emile was taken to the changing room by the two people as she was.



- What kind of appearance should I be looking forward to, I wonder?
- I know right? I'm very looking forward to it.

Hayato's sitting at a round table that has four chairs, and in two of them, for some reason, Latia and Erika were sitting on them.

Latia has mixed juice.

Erika drinks orange juice.

- Err, Latia and Erika-san...
- Hmm?
- Do you need something?

Stopping their hands that hold the glasses, the two of them turn their eyes to

Hayato.

– Both of you are working, right?

Of course, it's security.

– We are taking a little brake so it's fine, you know. Because revenge is about to come.

– Since the vice president says so, there won't be any problem.

– Well, I think there's that, but...

Besides, "revenge" ...

The image of Hayato about Erika was that he thought she was a decent and composed person, although she likes the president too much.

But she looks very scary when she gets angry.

(Or else, am I going to get involved with the president this time?)

Emile was dragged away five minutes ago.

Emile isn't coming back from the changing room yet.

Hayato also ordered an omurice.

According to the other clerks, it appears to be really recommended.

(... at any rate, is she really okay, I wonder...?)

As time goes by, his anxiety increases.

That anxiety is, of course, that Emile being a girl is leaked.

– Thank you for waiting.

In response to the voice of Noah who rushes over, Hayato points his eyes to the passage that leads to the changing room.

In the same way, both Erika and Latia were also pointing their eyes there.

– Please come out, Emile-san.

– Let's go, Emile-san.

– Ah, yeah...

Being urged by Shuemei, Emile appeared from inside the shop.

– Wow, it suits you more than I imagined!

As she looked at Emile in maid clothes with shining and joyful eyes, Latia stood up completely.

– Awesome, you really look like a woman, isn't it!? Don't you think so, Hayato!?

– ... ah, yeah. Th-that's right...

It's as Latia says.

Emile who let her hair go down and wore maid clothes, no matter how you look at him, she's a real girl—she looks no other than Emilia Hermit. Moreover, she's very cute—.

Being fascinated by her, he ended up spacing out for several seconds.

– Or rather, that chest...

The line of sight of Hayato ended getting fixated on the breasts of Emile. Because there were two big bulges there.

– Fufufu, Kisaragi-san is lewd, isn't he? Did you notice that?

It's not Emile who said so.

It's Noah who's standing next to Emile.

Her eyes are sparkling like a ☆ and then she grabbed the right arm of Hayato.

– Kisaragi-san, please be sure to touch them.

– What?

Noah invites the right hand of Hayato to touch Emile's chest.

– Come on, come on, rub them, rub them!

– Err, rub you say...

– Yeah, squish them, squish them!

– That's right, go ahead and press them!

It's not Noah. It's Shuemei who began to hurry him.

(What on earth is this situation...?)

Honestly, he doesn't know the reason.

When he looks at Emile, she was looking down, she felt a little shy.

She really looks like a girl...

She is a girl though.

(No matter how you look at it, this reaction isn't...) Or more precisely, what the hell is this development?

– Kisaragi Hayato, why are you bewildered? Both of you are men, so do as you were told and squish them.

– Exactly. Aren't you a man? It's time to do it.

He was hurried by Erika and Latia.

– Fine, I get it! Emile is really fine with it, yes?

– Ye-yeah...

Emile mutters as she looked down.

Like forgetting that she's lying about her gender and because there's a certain sensuality in the answer, his heart accelerates.

But—

(Yeah, there's nothing else to do in this situation!) Surely there must be some kind of trick.

Resolving himself, Hayato moved the five fingers of his right hand.

(... hmm, what's this?)

Although it's soft, the shape is kind of fluffy*...

***TN: Term used is コッコッ, it doesn't have any translation and when trying to find some possible matches, it refers to "fluffy things".**

...hmm?

He felt that something slipped.

Moreover, slipping as it is, his hand slips further.

– Uwaah!?

– Kyaah!?

With the momentum, Hayato pushed down the body of Emile.

– ...!!

Emile is blinking in surprise, her face is turning deep red.

– Hayato, your face, is too close... And, you touched my chest as you like.

– Huh?

Certainly, the distance between their faces is no more than 5 centimeters.

Moreover, his hand was touching the chest of Emile.

Rub, Rub.... He moves the hand in the same way as before.

– Hyaaaa! What are you doing, Hayato!?

– Oh, I thought that there was a swelling until a few seconds ago...

He probably thought that she wrapped bleached cotton around her chest since it was perfectly flat.

Still, the softness peculiar to women was transmitted to his fingertips a little.

Turning her face bright red, Emile screams.

– What are you doing, baka! Hurry up and get away from me now!

– Ah, s-sorry! Err...

Click Click, Hayato and Emile were taken aback with those sounds.

When they noticed, Erika holds the PDA in her hand, pointing the lens of the camera towards Hayato and Emile.



– Don't tell me that you took some photos just now?

Hayato rapidly stands up and takes distance from the body of Emile.

– Eh, please show them to me!

– Me too!

Both Noah and Shuemei are looking into the PDA of Erika.

– Th-these are problematic photos, don't you agree...?

-Yes, definitely.

Shuemei and Noah nodded to one another.

– What kind of pictures did you take?

Hayato also looks into Erika's PDA.

– ... uwa...

The moment he was rubbing the breast with all his strength and the figure of Hayato who is pushing down the maid clothed Emile were photographed perfectly.

This is something that can only be called as cruel.

– I beg you, please don't upload them to the *cybernet*!

Hayato, who ended up to that point, spontaneously said so.

– Then, please delete my pictures too.

Without a moment's delay, Erika said.

Looks like this was her objective from the start.

– I'm waiting, Emile.

– Eh...

– Do you want the pictures to be scattered?

– Well, I don't really mind though.

– No, it's bad! Please pardon us of these weird rumors that are multiplying!

Ultimately, Erika and Emile deleted each other's pictures.

As a pleasure only for this place, Shuemei and Noah also decided to delete the photos.

– So, how's that you had that sort of breasts just now?

– Oh, these? They were these things.

Emile took out towels from the chest.

– At any rate, you could have told me to get the mood. Those two took pictures too, you know?

Ahaha, Hayato breathed a sigh, looking at the laughing Emilia.

(I was really surprised, geez...)

When Emile returned to her Variable Suit again, the omurice came right away, and by the time they finished eating, it was already 12 o'clock, the time when they start to work.

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– We should get back to work soon.

Hayato guards the Terminal section and Emile guards the school building of the martial arts department.

They boarded the same bus from Central district all together.

– Well then, in front of the school building of the stadium at 15:30.

– Got it.

Hayato saw off Emile getting off from the bus first.

And then he went to the Terminal section where he's going to do the security.



Hayato put on his uniform on top of his Variable Suit and arrived in front of the stadium where the *live concert* venue is, he was a little late of the appointed time of 15:30.

As expected of the one who is called a world-class Idol.

The surroundings of the stadium are more crowded than in the morning when the opening ceremony of the founding festival was held.

The tickets, including the ones you watch while standing, seem to be sold out.

Hayato surveyed around the entrance, spotted Emile and started talking to her.

– Sorry, I kept you waiting. Almost no buses weren't coming.

– Hayato was far away, so it can't be helped. More importantly, let's enter quickly. We won't have time to see Karen-chan and the others.

– You're right.

Hayato and Emile head to the entrance gate.

The tickets were transferred to their PDAs.

When they tried to enter showing the PDAs to the senpais of *Selections* who were guarding the entrance gate, Souffle Clearrail, the manager of Kirishima Sakura, came to them.

– Sakura-san and Karen-chan have requested me to guide and bring you two to the dressing room.

Saying that, Souffle started to walk, leading Hayato and Emile.

What they reached was the standby room that Hayato used the next day he came to Little Garden before fighting with the president.

When Souffle opens the door, the wheelchaired Karen and Sakura have ended changing to their Variable Suits. And there was also Mihal dressed in nursing clothes.

– Nii-san, the play that was done before was really amazing!

Karen was undoubtedly nervous and Hayato thought that it was getting smaller but, unexpectedly, her tension was excessively high.

It appears that armed Slayers were using their Hundred until a while ago, doing something like a play in the field of the stadium, it looks like they were watching that on the monitor.

She spreads the arms on the wheelchair and talked about the contents mixed with excitement.

– Since the video of the play seems to be seen on the *cyberspace* at any time, Nii-san should also watch it without fail.

– I know.

Responding, Hayato continued.

– So, are you okay? Like the play, not only videos of the stage are saved on the *cyberspace*, the *live concert* is also streamed to the whole world in *real time*, isn't it? Are you completely ready for it?

– Nii-san, please don't make me feel nervous like that. But, I'm frantically containing my racing heart!

Karen looks at Hayato with an upward glance while putting her right fist on the part of the heart of her chest.

On such neck of Karen, Sakura surrounded it with both hands from behind.

– Be calm, Karen-chan.

– Sakura-san...

– Hayato-kun doesn't have to worry either, okay? The rehearsal of yesterday and the rehearsal of today were flawless and her preparation is perfect as well.

Turning her eyes to Hayato, Sakura declared so.

– If you say so, then I'll be relieved.

– To Ryōko-obasan, to everyone in the facility... and also to Kei-chan who's watching me at the hospital, I absolutely cannot fail them.

Sakura clenches one of her fists.

– Now that I remember, how many songs will Karen-chan sing?

It was Sakura and not Karen who answered Emile's doubts.

– One solo song. And a song with me for a total of two. Depending on the time and the enthusiasm of the spectators, there might be another song to encore.

– Please wait a moment, Sakura-san! I haven't heard anything of an encore!

– But Karen-chan can sing any of my songs, right? And you even know my choreographies, don't you? That's why we'll be able to manage somehow or other. I was thinking of deciding what to sing after this.

– Eeehh..... That's, my heart isn't ready...

– It's fine, it's fine, that sort of thing can be done while the *live concert* progresses, whatever will work.

Ahaha, Sakura laughs.

– Hey come on, unlike you, Karen is an amateur.... Don't say that it's not too much...

Hayato sighed greatly.

– ... and, Sakura, the live starts in 15 minutes. Because you have a last meeting from now on, oh and Karen-chan, I wonder if we can end the conversation with your older brother around here?

Souffle comes in between the four people and made a stop*.

***TN: this stop was written as: "reaching a stopping place; settling down (before the next stage); getting to a point where one can rest".**

– Well then, shall we go back soon?

– 'kay, see you after the *live*.

– Do your best, Karen-chan.

Saying so, Hayato and Emile started to walk towards the door to leave the room.

– Err, Nii-san...

Hayato was called to halt by Karen and turns around in front of the door.

What was visible to him is the figure of Karen who's staring fixedly at him with upturned eyes.

He immediately understood what she was looking for.

– ... it can't be helped, huh.

Hayato approaches Karen and kisses her forehead.

– If it's you, then you absolutely can do it well. Believe in yourself. Okay?

– Yes!

– Hey, Hayato-kun. What about me?

Sakura combed her hair upwards and showed her forehead, tapping it twice with her fingers.

Is she perhaps insisting on a kiss?

– Well...

– Hayato, why are you puzzled by the joke of Sakura? Let's go.

Taking the arm of Hayato, Emile tries to leave from the room.

Hayato didn't oppose to it.

– Sakura, do your best too!

Leaving those words with her, Hayato disappears from the dressing room and Sakura muttered, pouting her lips.

– Tsk, even though I wasn't joking...



– It says number 22 M and number 23 M, so are these our seats?

Hayato and Emile found the number of the chairs written in the ticket that was sent to their PDAs and sat down.

They heard those are staff seats.

Which means that it's a place where the stage is quite easy to see.

– Come to think of it, isn't it nice that we are carrying these today?

Hayato also turns his line of sight beyond the line of sight of Emile.

These are heart-shaped *penlights* which are *fan goods*. The color changes

depending on the signal transmitted by the organizer of the *live concert*.

– What do I do, are they selling them somewhere?

Hayato said to Emile, investigating the surroundings.

– It's not that it's mandatory to have them, you know?

– Is that so?

– These are the staff seats, right? There's almost no people around here, huh
—ah...

At the staff seats, she noticed the figure of Judal Harvey, the company president of Warslan.

It doesn't mean that he's sitting.

While being accompanied by Neveah Grauss, a female Slayer with bobcat hair who's his bodyguard, he stood as he is and greets the person who is a high official of the United States of Liberia.

Hayato was watching his figure and met his eyes with the ones of Judal.

Then, separating from the other party with whom he was having a talk, Judal got close to Hayato's side together with the female Slayer.

– Hi, it's been a long time, Kisaragi Hayato-kun. Today it seems that your little sister will also sing during this *live concert*, isn't she?

Judal started talking to Hayato while showing a radiant smile on his face.

– Umm, after she came to Little Garden, her body has become considerably better.... For this too, I give my thanks to Warslan and everyone in Little Garden.

– I am glad you are saying so. Even though I am saying that as gratitude, I will leave Warslan and Little Garden under your care from now on.

– Ah, yes...

– Next is, Emile Crossford-kun.

Subsequently, Judal points his eyes to Emile.

– I have heard stories about family issues. It seems you have a lot of hardships, but like Kisaragi Hayato-kun, you are an important person for both

Little Garden and Warslan. I would appreciate if you stay here from now on. I will be relying on you.

– Ah, yeah... understood.

Wondering about why he came to talk about her family so suddenly, Emile answered with discomfort.

Still, regarding Judal, he was satisfied.

– Well then, I still have greetings to do, so I will take my leave from here.

While showing a smile on his whole face, and turning his back on Hayato and Emile, he went away with his bodyguard.

– I got somewhat tired even before the *live*.

Hayato sat down on the seat while taking a big breath.

– Other than that, what are those “family issues”?

– Well, those are.... The reason why I came to Little Garden. But why are you saying such a thing now?

Ahahaha, laughing, Emile took out the PDA from her pocket.

– It’s almost time to start the concert, so why don’t we put them in silent mode?

– Ah, you’re right.

Emile puts the PDA in silent mode.

Similarly, Hayato turned the PDA into silent mode and turned his line of sight to the stage again.

After all, this place is a stadium.

Unlike the *live* they watched before, the stage isn’t elaborate, it’s simple.

Since it’s still evening, they can hardly produce it with illumination.

They can’t imagine what kind of *live* it will be.

– Oh, looks like it’s starting.

A cheerful melody began to sound.

Excited cheering reverberates.

Naturally, they were starting to clap following the rhythm.

While everyone is waiting impatiently for the appearance of the *Oriental Wizard*, Kirishima Sakura appears from the wing of the stage.

Sakura doesn't get affected with the cheers that become even bigger.

Waving with a dignified attitude in response to the cheering of the audience, she stood at the center of the stage.

The flowing music fades out.

– Hello!

Sakura shouts and 「Hello!」the voices return in unison from the audience seating.

– Hi, I'm Kirishima Sakura! I decided to do a *mini-live* today as a student of Little Garden and not as Kirishima “*Oriental Wizard*” Sakura. Even though it's a *mini*, I am not going to let down everyone who came to see this, so treat us well!

Should it be said as expected of someone who is experienced?

With the influence of Sakura, the *voltage* of the venue goes up in one go.

– To everyone who came to Little Garden and everyone living in Little Garden, please enjoy and remember this day. Well then, without delay, the first song is — —

Sakura aimed at the sky that is dyed in madder red and shouted, putting up the ore she held in her hand.

– Diva, descend! *HUNDRED ON!*

The light emitted from the ore wraps up the body of Sakura.

What appeared from that light is Sakura who wore shrine maiden clothes and what flowed out is an *intro* of her representative song with Yamato as its motive.

Thereupon, something happened.

The atmosphere of the stadium changes instantaneously, the world has changed.

This is the ability of Kirishima “*Oriental Wizard*” Sakura, it dominates the atmosphere of this place like this.

That is influenced by her Hundred——*Fairy Fairy Tale*, the production of the *live* and that she’s also a Variant.

However, Hayato of course understood that it’s not only that.

No, it seems that it was understood by everyone already.

The music she created. The voice overflowing from inside her body.

The way of doing that intonation, the gestures that reach till the fingertips and the tips of the toes from the top of the head.

A stage production using Hundred.

What is creating a sense of unity is the ability she possessed when she was born, and which is based on the results that she honed with effort——

And so, the audience is fascinated and captured by her.

They were invited not here but somewhere else, there they can spend a happy time.

(It’s truly amazing...)

He didn’t recognize it because she stayed too close lately, but she’s a pro among pros.

He wonders if Karen-chan can sing properly when bursting into the stage of such Sakura.

Is she going to be able to sing by herself and of course with Sakura?

His anxiety is unendurable.

That might be the same for Karen.

But, to Hayato who’s in the audience seating, he can only pray so that it turns out well.

Sakura finished singing two songs, then the turn for Karen to sing came at

last.

– Next is the entry of a special guest. I think that everyone knows her, she's a very popular person on the music pages of the *cyberspace* now.

When Sakura incited them on the stage, excited cheering arose from the audience seating.

– Everyone please welcomes her with applause. Well then, Kisaragi Karen-san, please come!

The venue is packed with applause.

Of course, both Hayato and Emile welcomed Karen with applause similarly to the other spectators.

While being showered with a lot of applause, Karen appears sitting in a wheelchair from the wing of the stage and held a mic in her hands.

As expected, she looks troubled with this situation.

Karen dyed her face red as she felt embarrassed, then stopped at the center of the stage and turned her eyes to the audience seating.

– Uh, umm...

The words of Karen were stopping completely with that much.

(Is she okay?)

While Hayato was worried, when Karen tried to speak again, a high-pitched sound stood up.

– Wawaaa!?

Karen shows confusion once again.

– Karen-chan. It's okay, so calm down. Take a deep breath, a deep breath!

– Ah, yes. I understand!

Karen answers with a loud voice in contrast with Sakura who called out to her with a small voice from the side.

The venue is packed with laughter.

– Do your best!

The voice of support came flying too.

Karen responds to that.

– Ye-yes, I will do my b... ahh!

Reflexively lowering her head, she hit her head with the mic.

Thud, a dull sound resounds in the stadium.

– I-is she... really okay, I wonder?

While Hayato smiles wryly, Karen took deep breaths once again.

It seems she was finally able to regain her composure.

– Nice to meet you, everyone. Karen is, no, that's not it, I am... Kisaragi Karen.

First is, her greeting.

The venue falls completely silent and listens carefully the words of Karen.

During that time, she started talking about her own circumstances.

She contracted an unknown disease that started to prevail on and after the *First Attack*, her body was weak from a very young age and became confined.

The *Second Attack* occurred during her stay in Gudenburg, where she lost her parents.

Thereupon, she met Sakura for a moment.

After that she returned to Yamato and lived with her older brother in an orphanage.

Then she got to know that her older brother had the ability of the Slayers and was able to receive cutting edge medical treatment in Little Garden.

Moreover, she was able to see her admired Sakura there, and that's how she became able to stand in this place like this.

There were a lot of difficulties, but thanks to the support of the people around her, to everyone who passed time with her at the orphanage, to her friend with whom she was together at the hospital of Yamato and who's also watching this relay broadcasting, she can sing with happiness in this way.

And of course, all those who took care of her in Little Garden and expected to

watch her standing here.

– That’s why Karen... no, I intend to return the favor to a lot of people who have supported me so far— —and like Sakura-san, I would like to be a person who can give courage to those with the same circumstances as me. I will sing, putting into it such feelings— —

Karen gets up from the wheelchair and shouted, putting up the Hundred in the sky.

– This is the first step towards my dreams— —Sacred Amulet *HUNDRED ON!*



In the security HQ aka briefing room of Little Garden that operates the security of the founding festival, Claire was watching attentively the state of the *live concert* of Karen, watching the live video displayed on the floating monitor placed before her eyes.

– I am glad that Karen-san got this better by coming to Little Garden.

– I think so too desuwane.

There’s a boy who’s the escort of Claire and that is managing the security in this place with her— —he’s Chris Steinbelt, a middle school second-year student who belongs to the intelligence department. Claire smiled happily.

– Even though Kisaragi Hayato is still a first-year student, he has been constantly dealing with hardships desumono. If this became one of the repayments of kindness, then that is the best desuwa.

Both Claire and Chris kept listening to the song of Karen.

That song that Hayato listened in the hospital room.

Kirishima Sakura wrote music notes for Kisaragi Karen, it’s an up-tempo number.

– Ah, Claire-sama.

– What is it, Chris? If it’s a conversation, then leave it after this song is over...

Making a tantrum like a child, Claire pouts her lips.

She just wants to listen to Karen's song now.

She said so with that attitude.

— I am sorry.... But since 《LiZA》showed a reaction, I thought that it would be better if I reported it to you——

— ... I will confirm it now masuwa.

Claire taps the keyboard in front of her and changed the live video from full screen to window mode and connected to《LiZA》.

——It's a wonderful song.

In the opened window, the message of that line was written.

— Apparently the song of the little sister of Kisaragi Hayato is also the favorite of《LiZA》desuwane.

When Claire slips out a smile, the sound of an alarm sounded all of a sudden in the room and the red lamp installed on the ceiling of the room began to rotate.

— What is happening this time desuno!?

Claire shouts as the room turns red.

Next, one of the students of the intelligence department raised his voice.

— An unidentified ship is rapidly approaching Little Garden! At this rate, it will collide with us!

— What did you say!?

Chapter 4: Unidentified Ship *Replicant*

Intruder

– *Sniff*, why am I not guarding the same place as Emilia-sama...? Furthermore, unlike the Slayers of Little Garden, we don't have free time...

On the deck covering three quarters of the outer circumference of Little Garden, the girl belonging to the army of Gudenburg, Claudia Lowetti, complained.

She's on the side of the connection of the military district side.

As it can be understood from the fact that she's wearing her Variable Suit, she's, of course, in this place to protect it.

However, her attitude became warped like a child.

Crouching down at a corner of the deck, she's timidly pressing her fingers on the deck.

It was a young boy who wore a Variable Suit of the same design as Claudia who raised his voice on her back.

He's Roy Kiring.

– But Claudia-sama, once this festival is over, won't Emilia-sama come back to Gudenburg with Kisaragi Hayato?

– That's not decided yet, and it depends on the answer of Emilia-sama.

– But, considering the condition of King-sama, shouldn't she return to the country at once?

– I think the same too. That's why I accepted Kilfelthar's proposal to be with Kisaragi Hayato.

Saying so, and when Claudia stood up, something was visible to her.

– What's that?

While staring at the sea, Claudia muttered.

She spotted ahead of her line of sight a black mass approaching Little Garden at a considerable speed.

Roy also turns his line of sight to it.

– Is that an unloading boat?

Saying that, Roy inclines his head to the side.

– I haven't heard that such a thing would come closer or anything like that. Besides, it's not going to stop at that speed, isn't it...?

At the same time Claudia felt danger, *Beep Beep*, the two wireless rings began to sound.

It's an《emergency call》from the briefing room.

Next, the voice of a boy was heard.

『This is Chris Steinbelt, member of the Student Council of Little Garden. We have confirmed an unidentified ship with the radar. It's approximately 200 meters away from Little Garden at the moment. Can you confirm it with the naked eye?』

– This is Claudia Lowetti of the Army of Gudenburg. That ship is going to collide already! So, we will es——

It was already late when Claudia tried to escape.

– Uwaah!?

The unloading ship collides with Little Garden while violently raising splashes of water and runs up onto the deck.

– Are you alright, Claudia-sama?

Roy, who escaped earlier, comes to the side of Claudia who fell on the flooded deck.

– As you can see, I don't have injuries, so... Roy, run away!

Claudia, despite doubting her eyes, raised her voice.

Coming down to the ground from the stranded unloading ship that has its bow opened, the Savages appeared on the deck in a forward-bent posture——

the so-called defense posture.

Looking back, Roy also notices them.

– Uwaaa, what’s the meaning of, this...? Why are, the Savages...?

Those are smaller than normal types.

However, their number is over ten and give a somewhat uncomfortable feeling.

(What the hell are these Savages?)

For that motive, Claudia soon noticed.

The head of all the Savages has no core.

Besides, the color of the pattern of the body is different too.

It’s not a yellow fluorescent color, but an orange almost red one.

Moreover, they don’t have two eyes but only one in the center, and there is no tactile where it should be.

– Briefing room, do you see this? What the hell are these Savages?

While confused, Claudia got up and took out the Hundred.

– It’s the first time that we’ll have to deal with Savages without core, jeez....
Let’s, go, Roy. —*HUNDRED ON!*



– One-eyed Savages without cores you say...? Chris, project on the main monitor the footage of the camera in the vicinity immediately!

Claire, who was listening to the communication from Claudia in the briefing room, ordered Chris.

– Roger.

Chris nods and starts operating the keyboard.

It was Charlotte that was licking a candy on a tick there.

– It looks that it has become a serious thing, huh.

– Charlotte!

Claire raises a bright voice.

If she comes, she thinks that technical questions can be solved quickly.

– I’ve grasped the situation. There’s no need to explain it.

Saying, Charlotte stood next to Claire.

– We were able to prepare a video of the core-less Savages. I’ll project the live video on the monitor.

Then, the state of the deck is projected on the monitor set on the back wall.

Looking at it, Claire muttered.

– ... certainly, no core is found in the Savages and they have only one eye desuwane. And the pattern of the body isn’t yellow, it shines red masuwa.

– This may be the same as the discovery report at Mt. Kongur.

Charlotte muttered.

– What discovery report desuno?

– There are two girls who were attacked and received fatal injuries during the search in 《The Second Operation of Bird in the Basket》. Only that, it’s presumed that they had some kind of memory loss, but that doesn’t mean that it’s true.

– But, why from an unloading ship....?

– Although these are no more than conjectures, there are three possibilities.

Taking out the candy from the mouth and swinging it like a pointer when doing a teaching, Charlotte continues.

– The first one is that someone caught them. The second one is that they are terminals of Tamer type Hundreds. And the last one is that those are machines manufactured by a person.

– What are you saying is that you don’t know which one it is desuwane?

– Exactly. Well, I think that the possibility of the last one is high.

– Is there a way to destroy them masuno?

– As you can see, it seems they stop attacks with normal weapons up to certain degree. Therefore, we should assume that the steel shell is equivalent to the steel shell of the Savages. In that case, there's a possibility that they can be destroyed with the attack of the Hundreds accompanied by powerful *energy*. If you don't try it, we'll never know.

– In short, you are saying that the Slayers must do something desuwane. We can't let them invade into Little Garden no matter what masenwa.

Of course, that goes to Sangria side as well.



– This is not the case to say something like capturing them. We are going to exterminate the ones who are at the whole deck masuwa. The connection between Little Garden side and Sangria side will be temporarily restricted. Both entrances will be blocked. Chris, how many Slayers are on the deck now?

– There are 15 Slayers between the ones of Liberia, Little Garden and Gudenburg.

– Gather everyone forward and inform them to engage the mentioned Savages. Until they get to the current state, let keep them at bay with conventional weapons. Just to be sure, also call other Slayers— —

– Err, Claire-sama...

– ... what is it, Chris mashitano?

The expression of Claire who turned her eyes towards Chris who raised his voice became grim.

His hands, that were tapping the keyboard stopped, his body was trembling.

– There is an information that suspicious floating things that resembled hornets began to appear one after another in Little Garden.

– What did you say!?



At that time, at a corner of the exhibition space set in the courtyard of the school building of Little Garden, his terminal, that looked like a dog made by his Hundred— —named Silver Blitz, was being used to do acrobatics.

– What do you think, amazing, right!?

Every time Silver Blitz pulls a skill, like jumping and catching a ball or passing through a circle, cheers and applause come from children and their parents that gather around them.

Latia, who was watching the situation at a distance while patrolling, was

impressed with the popularity of Silver Blitz.

– As one would expect, don't you think? It's quite exciting.

– The Tamer type Hundred is unusual, isn't it? The popularity with the children is convincing too.

The one who said so is Erika, one of the Student Council Vice Presidents who was patrolling with Latia.

– What do we do? It looks we entered break now, should we go and greet him?

– Oh yeah, let's do that.

Latia and Erika approach Alphonse who lowers his head while receiving applause.

– You have become a great success, Alphonse Brewstadt. It looks like you have a considerable manipulation ability of the Hundred.

– Ah, Vice President and Latia. Both of you were also watching the performance of Silver.

– It was very popular with the children, huh.

– We practiced a lot, so we are truly please~d!

Alphonse looks very happy.

– I am not well informed with the Tamer type Hundred, but the instructions you give, like how to move in detail, are like the Dragnar type terminal?

– Nope, it's not different from a real dog. First, you do it like this, then umm, insisting on it, you train it to move like that.

To the doubt of Erika, Alphonse answers.

– In short, you can say that it's an automatic control?

– I couldn't control it properly at the beginning, I failed a lot. But, problematic behaviors haven't occurred anymore.

– If so, it may be time to move onto the next phase.

– ... next phase?

Alphonse cocks his head in puzzlement towards the words of Erika.

– What I mean is to create a type of terminal that seems to be more useful for battle.

– In other words, you mean making a fierce animal?

It was Latia who butted into the conversation.

– Well, something like that.

Erika nods.

However, the Alphonse in question doesn't look convinced.

– Hmm, I prefer the way Silver Blitz is, like this. It's cute.

– Certainly it's cute, but— —

When Erika turns her line of sight, *Silbli* aka Silver Blitz was swinging its tail intensively.

When Latia pats its head, it barks happily with a 「Bark♪」.

– With this, it won't stand up as a fighting role...

– Not that I'm worried about it now... ah, I have an hour recess until the next performance, so I was thinking of having a meal in the meantime. Instead of talking while standing, why don't we eat?

– Eat you say? It's already 15:30. Didn't you eat lunch?

– That's not it, it's time for the 3'clock meal— —.

– If you say that that's the *between-meal snack* then...

Amazed, Erika has a cramp in her cheeks.

– It's because they looked alike, you know. Oh, there's a takoyaki stall over there, they look deliciou~s. Since I'll buy for a moment, please take the unoccupied seats over there!

– Wait a moment, Alphonse Brewstadt!

Alphonse runs towards the stall.

Looking at the tables set up in the courtyard, most of them are already

occupied with many visitors.

If they don't do something, it's probable that all of them will be crowded soon.

– Good grief, it can't be helped. We've been patrolling for almost two hours and we are going to take our rest soon, so...

– If that's the case, then I'll buy something to drink. Is the vice president going to drink something? I'll buy it.

– There's no need. I will go buy it myself later.

– Okay. Then, I'll just buy for myself!

Just like with Alphonse earlier, Erika sat down on an vacant chair while sighing *dear me!*, looking at Latia who cheerfully started running towards the stalls.

After a while, Alphonse returned, he carried a number of packages.

– Vice preside~nt, thank you for taking the sea~ts!

– You bought a lot, didn't you...?

Erika blinked the eyes beyond the glasses in surprise, looking the big sized drink, the yakisoba pack, the okonomiyaki pack and 3 packs of 12 pieces of takoyaki arranged in a line on the table*.

***TN: Yakisoba: fried noodles, usually with vegetables and meat. Okonomiyaki: Savory pancake containing meat or seafood and vegetables. Takoyaki: octopus dumplings.**

– Well, I get tired when I move. Anyway, that's how I have this body—.

– if that's the case, how about dieting a little? Although you have a Tamer type Hundred, your body is inadequate as a Slayer.

– I want to do so, bu~t. The delicious things are so delicious that food is like life for me~.

Munch, Alphonse carries to his mouth the takoyaki with a toothpick.

In an instant, he emptied a box.

– ... when looking at you with that appetite, it seems like you would be better

handling a knife and a fork type of Hundred rather than a Tamer one...

– Animals, I like animals. I also like to eat, bu~t.

Erika was amazed looking at the appearance of Alphonse who washed down the yakisoba into his stomach as she stood up, saying「I will buy a drink」.

Latia comes back, changing places with Erika.

– Wow, there's a lot of food. Can I have one takoyaki, please?

– There are toothpicks, so go ahead.

– Wow, it's hot! But it's tasty. Can I have another one?

– Yeah, don't worry~. Eat all what you wa~nt.

Erika came back when Latia was pinching a takoyaki.

– You are also eating with him, good grief.

– Ah, vice president, please join u~s.

– This is *delicious*. If I remember correctly, this is food originated in Yamato, right?

When she was looking at the katsuobushi dancing on top of the takoyaki and Latia eating that deliciousness, her stomach began to sound*.

***TN: Katsuobushi: Small pieces of sliced dried bonito.**

– Well then, thanks for the food.

Latia and Erika eat takoyaki while drinking orange juice and black tea that they bought respectively while Alphonse was starting to put his hands on the okonomiyaki.

– ... hmm, it began to get somewhat noisy.

Latia turns her eyes to the monitor installed in the courtyard as everyone are paying attention to it.

It was the image of the special stage of the stadium that is projected there.

– Oh, isn't that Kirishima Sakura?

– Now that you mention it, the *live concert* starts right now.

Erika also turns her line of sight to the monitor.

– The little sister of Hayato also appears, I wanted to go and see them if wasn't because of this security job.

Most of the people in the courtyard are paying attention to the monitor and listening carefully to the song of Sakura.

Alphonse, who continued eating as usual finished eating okonomiyaki then raised his face and noticed the presence of something.

– Hmm? What's, that...?

Something like a hornet of approximately 30 centimeters is floating in the courtyard.

Its black skin looks quite hard.

The pattern of the body is the same fluorescent color as the Savages and it's clad in a considerable ominous aura.

– Hey, Latia. Do you know what's that?

– What are you saying? I'm watching the *live concert* of Kirishima Sakura.

Latia looks ahead of the line of sight of Alphonse in a state that was saying do not disturb.

But, when she saw it, she doubted her eyes.

– What's that? Vice president, take a look.

– Eh...?

Erika also turned her eyes to the floating body that was like a hornet and showed a surprised look.

– Maybe that thing is like my Silver Blitz?

It's Alphonse who said so.

Could it be that there's a Tamer type Slayer like him in the vicinity?

– Certainly, it looks like that, but...

Latia showed a positive reply and turned her gaze to Silver Blitz who's sitting at the feet of Alphonse.

Nonetheless, Silver Blitz is silver and the color of the floating body is a dull light brown, close to the Savages.

Its pattern and fluorescent color are eerie too.

It looks like the other residents, students and visitors began to notice the existence of the floating body with a strange shape.

Huh? What's that?, a commotion started.

As things are, disturbance and chaos will spread if they leave this unattended.

Erika gets up from the chair and shouted, turning her line of sight to the floating body.

– I am Erika Candle, vice president of the Student Council of Little Garden! Who is the person that is operating that?

However, there's no reply.

– If we don't find the person who is operating it, there is a possibility of running wild and we will have to capture it. Are you okay with that?

Even when she asks again, there's no answer.

– If so, let's capture it.

– In that case, I'll try it.

Alphonse stood up from the chair and gave an order to Silver Blitz with his terminal, pointing his objective with the five fingers of his spread hand.

– Go, Silver Blitz! Catch that thing!

– Bark!

Raising a high-spirited cry, Silver Blitz throws itself upon the hornet.

The handling of Alphonse is perfect, as expected of being able to train its acrobatics.

Silver Blitz jumped high using its two back legs as springs and captured tightly with its two front legs the hornet-like body.

– Attaboy, Silver Blitz! Well done!

Alphonse rushes over to his terminal.

And when the distance was less than three meters.

– Uwaah!?

Boom, an explosion occurred with Silver Blitz who captured the floating body at its center, rising a fierce sound out of nowhere.

– Alphonse, are you okay!?

Latia and Erika rush to the position of Alphonse together.

Due to the soaring blast, they can't see the figure of Alphonse, nor they can confirm the figure of Silver Blitz with is the terminal.

However, from inside that, they hear *cough cough*, his coughing sounds, and both of them felt relieved.

– I, I managed to survive, somehow.... But, Silver Blitz is...

The cloud of smoke clears up.

Beyond the line of sight of Alphonse who fell on his backside is an all-purpose Hundred in the form of a regular octahedron rolling on the ground.

Silver Blitz received damage due to the power of the explosion just now and couldn't retain its shape.

The previously-mentioned floating body looks like it ended up becoming in pieces as it is possible to see the fragments that composed its body on the ground.

– There is no need to lament. Well done, Alphonse Brewstadt. If that exploded in the vicinity or within that crowd of people, it would have become something very terrible.

Erika's line of sight is pointing at something similar to a square box set on a nearby wall.

– ... what kind of box is that?

Alphonse cocks his head in puzzlement, looking at the box.

– It's a switchboard. If that exploded over there, all of the electricity in this area would have fallen, which may have been a serious thing.

Erika replied.

It's Latia who's displaying confusion next to her.

– Other than that, what was that strange thing? Why did it explode so suddenly?

– I don't know that. But...

Realizing that there's a fragment of a red shining ore among the fragments of the floating body, Erika picked it up.

– I knew it, this is definitely a *Variable Stone*, isn't it?

Closing her eyes partly, Erika continued her words.

– To be here in a processed form, it means that the possibility of someone who built this object is high.

– Does that mean that this is a robot, perhaps?

– That seems to be the case.

Erika replies towards Alphonse who displayed his doubt and continued her words.

– Someone created it and sent it to Little Garden——in other words, there is a possibility of this being an incident or terrorism. Let's contact the briefing room at once.

Erika said so and tries to get in touch using the wireless ring of her arm when a sound of an explosion echoed far away.

With a delay of a second, screams also arrive.

– No way, that thing appeared in other places too!?

Latia shouted.

Erika, though impatient, keeps contacting the briefing room.

– Chris, can you hear me!? This has become a serious thing!



— Erika-san, can you hear me? This is Chris Steinbelt of the briefing room. Did something happen?

『As a matter of fact, a floating body that had an appearance similar to a hornet exploded——』

— We are getting reports aside from that one now, so we are putting together that information. Several other strange events are still occurring, so can Erika-san come here as well?

『Understood, I will head there immediately. I will send information from here as well, so I would appreciate if you could send it to me at any time』

— Roger.

Erika rushes to the briefing room while she understood that she's able to grasp the information with the monitor installed in the lens of her glasses and Chris starts to summarize the information sent from the students.

Among those, there was some worrisome information.

— Claire-sama, please look at this.

— What is it desuno, Chris? Now I am monitoring the battle situation——
wha...

Claire who opened the video data transferred from Chris doubted her eyes.

It was because in that video, one of the《automatic cleaning robots》that are in the school building of Little Garden took a moment to transform into a floating shape similar to a hornet and has the same pattern and color as the Savages.

— What is the meaning of this desuno...? What is the reason for such a thing...?

The voice of the muttering Claire is trembling.

— Chris Steinbelt, the current state of the《automatic cleaning robots》is that they're all working?

The one who asked was Charlotte who as she looked into the video next to

Claire.

– I will confirm it immediately.

Chris starts to tap the keyboard of the laptop with his fingers.

– Everything is working. There are no abnormalities.

– If so, this《automatic cleaning robot》may be one that someone brought to school, hmm. When magnifying it, the logo of Warslan Company isn't there.

Charlotte enlarges the image, touching the monitor.

Likewise, Chris also zooms in the image.

– Certainly, it is as Charlotte-sama says. There is no logo.

– There might be some of those still somewhere else. It's better to stop the movement of all the 《automatic cleaning robots》and capture the ones that are moving——or it would be better to destroy them. According to Erika's information, there seems to be a manufactured *Variable Stone* inside their bodies, so there's no doubt that someone made them.

– Chris, is it possible to do as Charlotte says?

– Of course. First of all, we stop the movement of the《automatic cleaning robots》inside the ship——then, we notify to all the Slayers who are patrolling about the terrorist attack, the 《automatic cleaning robots》without a logo and their relationship with the artificial Savages that look like a hornet——the hornets.



– ... what was that sound?

Fritz and Liddy, who were patrolling the underground of the martial arts school building, were surprised when they heard an explosion all of a sudden.

– That was the sound of an explosion, right?

Fritz responds to Liddy.

– I feel that I heard it coming from the courtyard, but what happened? Are we

going to see?

– No, wait a moment. Fritz Grantz, what is that?

– That?

Ahead of the point of view of Liddy, a creature resembling a hornet of 30 centimeters length is flying.

– A bug, maybe...?

Fritz answers.

I have never seen such a big insect in Little Garden.

– Now that we are connected to Sangria Port, maybe it intruded from somewhere?

– Even so, it's too big. Moreover, the color of the body is exactly like to the Savages.

– It's somewhat giving me the creeps, so just to be sure, should I bring it down?

Fritz takes out the Hundred and grasped tightly with his right hand.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

The right arm of Fritz is wrapped in light and a short rifle of gun barrel appears.

Originally, his Long Shooter type Hundred《Impregnable Fortress》*Stronghold* is an armor for defense, but this time he only created a sniper rifle on purpose.

Judging that there are no attacks of the opponent, he gave priority to mobility.

– 'kay then, do I aim and shoot at it?

– Wait a moment.

Liddy stopped him by putting a hand in front of Fritz who began to aim with decision, closing one eye and pointing the muzzle to the hornet.

– The walls in this area should have a lot of electric cables lay out and connected to the distributing board over there. If you shoot out the board, then

this will be a big deal.

There's a rectangular box installed on the wall indicated by the finger of Liddy.

That seems to be the switchboard.

– But, there should be a *barrier* to neutralize *energy* on the wall, right? It should protect it against light shots, or do you think that I'm going to miss?

– Just because—

And when Liddy tried to stop Fritz again.

The vital ring of Fritz and Latia starts to sound intensely.

It's an emergency call from the briefing room.

Next, they hear the voice of Chris.

『To all the Slayers who are guarding, this is Chris Steinbelt of the briefing room. This is an emergency call. Please calm down and listen to the contents of the speech after this』

– An emergency call, he said...?

Murmurs Liddy.

Then, Chris began to convey two important matters.

The first is that a ship of unknown affiliation crashed into the deck near the connection between Little Garden and Sangria Port and mysterious Savages without core appeared from inside.

The second is that floating bodies—hornets appear in great numbers inside Little Garden. Of course, he also tells them that their skin is similar to the color of the Savages, that they emit a red light and that they may be mimicking cleaning robots.

– In other words, *that* is that, huh...

『That is all that I have to report. If you have any information or if you spot any dubious cleaning robot without logo or discover a hornet, please immediately inform to the briefing room』

– Vice president Liddy, can I contact them?

When Fritz asked, Liddy nods.

– This is Fritz Grantz of Little Garden. This is a report to the briefing room. Currently, I am in pursuit of a hornet type with vice president Liddy Steinberg. Our location is the first floor of the basement of martial arts department school building. Depending on what you determine, is it fine to shoot it down?

『Do you hear me, Liddy Steinberg, Fritz Grantz masuka? This is Claire Harvey of the briefing room desuwa. I give permission to fire in my name masu. According to Charlotte's conjecture, the hornet type may be aiming at the infrastructure of Little Garden arimasu. If it's the first floor of the basement of the martial arts department, there might be a distribution panel masen. Even if the walls of the school building are destroyed a little to protect the infrastructure, I won't complain masenwa』

– Fritz, this is bad! Look over there.

It's Liddy who shouted.

Looking at the place she indicated, the hornet already stuck to the switchboard.

The pattern of the stripes on the round bottom started to turn on red.

– Tsk, if I don't shoot it, it'll destroy the switchboard anyway!

Fritz shouts, annoyed.

Then, from afar, *Boom*, an explosion sounded and the ceiling, the wall and the floor shook violently.

They turn their eyes to the hornet again.

The pattern of the body is flashing repeatedly.

Besides, it started to expand like a big balloon.

– Get down! That's going to explode!

While shouting, Liddy crouches down.

– Damn!

If it has become to this, then it will be the same if he shoots.

Cancelling the armament, Fritz also crouched down.

Along with the explosion, a strong wind hit the two of them.

『Are you okay, Fritz, Liddy!?』

Cough Cough, standing up while coughing, Fritz verifies the corridor covered with dust.

Although the electricity was gone and it was pitch dark, he found there was a big hole in the place where there was a switchboard moments ago.

The wiring is snapped apart and sparks are scattering.

– I am fine, Claire-sama.

– I’m not hurt either. But the electricity in the corridor has gone out...

『It’s fine, the good thing is that you don’t have injuries desuwa』

– Claire-sama, what should we do from now on——

『We will contact you again as soon as we confirm the whole situation masu. If you two find something again, or if you have noticed anything, please contact us. Of course, safety comes first deswuwayo』



– Oh my, this is really a trouble, don’t you think?

Charlotte declared so in the briefing room.

Staying like that, she continues her words.

– To be precise, I think the terrorists are trying to destroy the infrastructure of Little Garden. The person who understands the design of this place goes beyond limits, and his knowledge surpasses the process technology of the *Variable Stones* and so forth, although they are criminal acts.

– Then, that means——

The eyes of Claire are casted down with sadness.

– Yeah. It’s as you have thought right now. It’s very likely that the person who

plotted this plan— —or the mastermind of this terrorism was a former Warslan engineer who was involved in the design of Little Garden.

– That person is no other than **Vitaly Tynyanov**, correct masuno?

– In other words, the hornets and the one-eyed Savages without core are things she did, imitating the Savages who are the natural enemy of mankind, which can be called duplications?

– Those duplications— —known as *replicants* desuwane.

– Exactly.

Charlotte threw a candy into her mouth again.

– Err, Claire-sama...

One of the girls of the intelligence department calls out to Claire while trembling.

– ... what is it mashitano?

The facial expression of Claire became even more grim with the abnormal look of the girl.

The girl swallows saliva and continues her words.

– Well... an alert from the air traffic control of Liberia has arrived, an unidentified aircraft is approaching Little Garden...

– Wha— —this time it's an aircraft desuno!?

– Looks like it will be above us in the skies in less than a minute!

A different student of the intelligence department shouted.

– My my, how many arrows does she want to fire, hmm?

Amazed, Charlotte murmurs.

– Chris, examine at once whether the passenger plane is hijacked or not desu!

– Claire-sama I have already examined it. It is not registered in any traveler company and, it seems the fuselage it's not registered, even if it is for private use.

– What about the signs of infrared reactions desu?

- There seems to be one heat source. Probably it is the pilot.
- That is to say, there is a possibility that a person is on board desuwa...

Claire hesitates, touching the lips with her hand.

The strength of the glass covering Little Garden is considerable.

Assuming that an aerial bombardment occurred, or if the aircraft crashed with it, it will be able to withstand it.

However, as the supply of electricity is weakening, the strength of the *barrier* is also weakening.

And the opponent is a terrorist that they don't know what is going to do.

Moreover, there is a high possibility that it is familiar with Little Garden.

- Can't we increase the strength of the outer wall *barrier* masenno?

Claire asks Charlotte.

- That is immediately impossible. It'll take three minutes including all kinds of things.

Claire decided after listening to the reply of Charlotte.

There's no time to be losing her way.

Of course, even the time relying on 《LiZA》——

- Chris, we will shoot down the aircraft masuwayo!

Although the person is a menace.

She doesn't want to kill if possible.

But, in this situation, she can't say a thing like depending on others*.

***TN: I'm not really sure about this sentence :c**

- Can you send instructions to a missile installed on the deck through wire masuka?

- Yes, absolutely. That part is not destroyed yet.

- If so——prepare to launch a missile immediately!

Together with the order of Claire, a part of the deck opened on the main monitor of the briefing room and the state that a missile was ready for launch was projected.

– Claire-sama, we are ready.

– Understood mashitawa.

Nodding, Claire touches with her fingers the monitor before her eyes and releases the protection.

And then— —

– Firing missile!

– Enemy target confirmed. Firing missile!

It was a soldier in his thirties and that was dispatched from Warslan Company who was working at the briefing room who locked the target and pressed the button.

Of course, he has no hesitation.

He has done training and practice a lot of times.

The missile is fired from the deck.

– Any news desuno?

Claire gazes steadily at the monitor.

The missile headed straight to the aircraft plunging forward to Little Garden and hit it.

– It hit it mashitawa!

Claire shouted spontaneously.

– Par for the course.

A military man raises his thumb to Claire.

Cheers raised from the briefing room.

However, Chris didn't fail to notice that **something** was falling before the aircraft that was heading towards the sea got destroyed.

– Claire-sama, this is...

– Wha—

Chris projects **that** on the main monitor.

Since it's a video from a distant place, the image quality is coarse and small, but they can see that there is a one-eyed Savage without core with a shining red pattern on its body—they understood it's a *replicant*.

Nonetheless, it doesn't seem to be entirely the same as the others.

Its body is one size larger than normal types. Moreover, it looks that it can fire things like wires from the back.

– What was that just now desuno...!

The tip of the fired wire changed to something like a sucker and adhered to the transparent outer wall of Little Garden.

Winding those wires, the enormous *replicant* lands like sliding on top of the outer wall glass*.

***TN; I changed 天板 = tabletop/countertop for glass, since it would sound very weird since we were already talking about a glass material.**

And then it began to strike with the pincers alternating left and right on the top glass of the weakened *barrier*.

Each time the *barrier* of particles scatters spark-like things, it develops a crack on the top glass.

Moreover, hornets are flying around the enemy.

– The durability of the top glass is 95%, 92%—at this rate, it will be destroyed soon!

A young girl of the intelligence department working at the briefing room shouted.

Subsequently, another man of the intelligence department exclaimed.

– Claire-sama! An unidentified ship approached and crashed into the rear part of Little Garden!

- Kuh... from one thing to another...!
- Switching live video to the rear part.

Chris switches the video.

It seems that the ship that has collided with the deck has the same appearance as the one that crashed at the front.

One-eyed Savages without core crawl creepily from inside—identical *replicants* come out.

– Attracting Slayers to the frontward and then attacking the rear when they were gathered there, huh.... Although it's an enemy, it's a fantastic strategy.

Rebeking, Charlotte chew and crushed the candy inside her mouth.

– What do we do, Claire-sama?

It was Chris who asked.

– ... kh, announce the emergency call to all the students of the martial arts department as well as the members of *Selections* who are on their breaks. Disperse them and make them exterminate the *replicants* masu. After that, prepare a civilian evacuation plan with《LÍZA》and start the guidance of the evacuation. We will absolutely have no victims coming out from this masenwayo!

Claire bites her thumbnail and,

(Where is Onii-sama at a time like this masuno?)

She muttered so in her mind.



Just a few minutes before the first explosion occurred, the song of Karen ends while the music fades out and the stadium, which is the *live concert* venue, was wrapped up in excited cheering and applause.

Of course, they are all directed to Kisaragi Karen, a girl standing at the center of the stage.

– She’s amazing....

Hayato murmured unconsciously, looking at Karen who’s waving her hand over and over again, while bowing her head and taking a look around the venue.

Emile aligns with him.

– Yup, she’s truly amazing. Karen-chan sure is cool.

Then, her voice reverberated through the speakers to the stadium. It’s Sakura who’s watching attentively the state of Karen-chan at the wing of the stage.

She approached Karen who couldn’t hide her excitement at the center of the stage and touching her shoulder from the back like showing appreciation for her efforts, she asked the audience seating.

– Everyone, how was the song of Karen?

Loud shouts rise again and voices such as 「Good」, 「Cute」 among others were released one after another from the audience seating.

Hearing those, Karen was letting tears to well up in her eyes.

– Well, to tell you the truth, it is me who created the song. What do you think? It’s amazing, right?

When Sakura said so, the stadium was packed with laughter.

The great thing that Kirishima Sakura has is that everyone knew that she seemed to want to say so mixed with snicker.

It’s identical to the reaction that Hayato had when he was told the same thing before.

– The next song was also created by me, however, it’s my first duet song. Karen-chan and I are singing it together!

Sakura adds 「By the way」 while the excited cheering that spilled expectations are resounding.

– After this *live concert* is over, the songs will be on sale on the *cybernet*, so please buy them all! And for the people watching the broadcasting, I’m sure there’s going to be a button after the end of the broadcast, so thank you for

your patronage!

Naturally, the venue was packed with laughter.

Although it's mixed with snicker like a while ago, there are still voices that say 「Of course」, 「We'll buy, we'll buy!」and so on.

It's probably because of the natural virtue and popularity of Sakura.

— Well then, shall we sing at once? Are you ready, Karen-chan?

— Y-yes!

— 'kay, together with us— —

Sakura and Karen joined their backs and raised the microphones towards the sky.

It seems they intend to change their costumes at the same time.

— *HUNDRED ON*— —

— *HUNDRED ON*— —

Matching their breathing, they were just about to raise their voices.

Boom, Boom, two sounds of distant explosions are heard, and the entire stadium trembles violently as if an earthquake had occurred. Together with that, the illumination of the stage flickers repeatedly and then they went out, making a loud noise.

— — —kyaah!?

Screaming, it was Karen who fell down.

— Are you alright, Karen-chan?

Sakura rushed to Karen in a hurry and said to her, squatting.

And then again, an explosion reverberated.

— What on earth is this...

Chaos is inside the venue.

Naturally, Sakura was showing confusion.

That goes for Hayato too who's in the audience seating.

– ... kh, Karen...! What is this situation...!?

– Perhaps a Savage appeared or something like that—

Emile mutters with a grim expression.

And then, an emergency call resounded from the PDA of Hayato and Emile.

What they heard next is the voice of Chris.

『This is a notification to *Selection* members. Because there is a possibility of chaos of residents and visitors, it will help us if you listen to this in a place that won't leak to others except Slayers as much as possible. I will wait 30 seconds, so please move』

– Let's go, Hayato.

Emile instantly stands up from the chair.

– Y-yeah...

Although he answered so, Hayato seems to be worried about the two people in the stage, but still, he stands up and immediately starts moving to a passage with few pedestrians together with Emile.

30 seconds passed in the blink of an eye.

When they came out to the aisle from the audience seating, the voice of Chris is heard again.

『Well then, I will start with the notification. Little Garden is currently under attack by someone. The Student Council concluded that this is a terrorist attack. Members of *Selections*, deploy your armaments in a safe place and standby. We will be continuously sending instructions to each one of you in turns』

– That “someone” means that aren't Savages?

Hayato says his doubt.

– Perhaps is that woman, Vitaly, who was mentioned before...

– ...!

Hayato started running all of a sudden.

He's heading towards the direction of the dressing room.

– Wait, Hayato!

Grabbing the arm of Hayato, Emile continued.

– Where on earth are you planning to go?

– To where Karen is. If something happened there, Karen...

– Sakura is on the stage. She'll protect Karen-chan. Because she has that ability.

– But, the ability of Sakura doesn't specialize in battle...

– If the artificial Variants like the trio we fought before were to attack, even Hayato knows that it'll become difficult if we don't stop them, right? Unless we take out the cause, the danger will just continue!

– That's.... well, you are right.... Sorry, I lost my composure. Certainly, it's as you say.

– Then, let's go outside. As the prez told us, we'll deploy our Hundred and standby.



On the stage, Sakura was aware that Hayato and Emile left from the venue.

– Souffle, what on earth happened?

Sakura uses the wireless ring and asks Souffle with a small voice.

『... I don't know the details. However, the briefing room reported that the explosions just now were caused by acts of terrorism. Also, this is a safe place, so don't move——』

– Terrorist? No way...

Inside the head of Sakura, the thing that was coming to her mind is the figure of Vitaly Tynyanov who made her an artificial Variant, that's what Souffle understands.

Even she thinks that such possibility is high.

『Calm down, Sakura. Because you are the only one who can calm this place』

– ... I know. Hayato and the others are managing somehow or other outside. That's why I'm going to do properly what must be done here.

Saying so to herself, Sakura stops the communication with Souffle, turns on the microphone and shouted.

– Everyone, calm down!



Exactly when Hayato and Emile came out from the stadium, the emergency call resounded from the two wireless rings.

It's from the Student Council.

『Kisaragi Hayato, Emille Crossford, do you hear me!? This is Claire Harvey of the briefing room desuwa』

It's the voice of the president.

– We hear you, president.

Replying immediately, Hayato shows his suspicions.

– This, as expected, is because of Vitaly Tynyanov, no?

『We assume that such possibility is high masu』

– What's the current situation?

Next, it's Emile who presented a question.

『At the front and rear of Little Garden, battles with the Savages named *replicants* are taking place masu. Your childhood friend, Claudia Lowetti, is also battling desuwa』

– Wait a moment. The other party is Vitaly in one way or another, right? Why is that there are Savages called *repuri-whatever*?

『This is merely my guess, but it's very probable that Vitaly not only researched artificial Variants, but even artificial Savages and put them into practical use. Moreover, the huge ones have a size that doesn't differ from normal Savages and there are also small ones that resemble hornets』

It's Charlotte who answered.

Subsequently, Hayato presents a question.

– In other words, it means that those called *replicants* are artificial Savages? How's that possible....

『... it's not impossible, you know. Even the robots cleaning the corridors inside the school building of Little Garden are powered by *Variable Stones*. However, it should be very difficult to control them to that extent. It's impossible for me』

– But, you said that Vitaly made them, correct?

『We don't know to what extent she can control them. It may become quite challenging to control like a Tamer type Hundred』

– In other words, we are supposed to destroy those *replicants*, yes?

『Correct. We want you to destroy a massive *replicant* that is on top of the top glass of Little Garden desu. We are sending images from the surveillance cameras now desu. Can you confirm them with the PDA masuka?』

– Yes.

Hayato takes out the PDA from his pocket and replied to the instructions sent by the president again and confirms the data that arrived.

– This is...

There was a figure of a huge *replicant* of about 8 meters long that was on top of the top glass of Little Garden and was striking it with its pincers.

Cracks were developing in the top glass and he sees that small fragments are falling to the interior of Little Garden.

– No need to guess that it's a pretty bad situation...

– Also, Hayato, look carefully. This Savage has no core and has no more than one eye...

– Ah...

Looking as he was told, that certainly it's the case.

The pattern of its body isn't yellow but red.

Compared to the other *replicants*, this looks exceptionally large.

– Hey, Charo. How should we defeat this guy?

『I don't know. Therefore, the only thing we can do now is to stop it. But, since its steel shell seems to be similar to the Savages', if you hold a strong *energy*, you'll be able to penetrate the steel shell and destroy it, I guess. It should be hiding an improved Savage's core or a *Variable Stone* inside its body』

『In that case, I shall go. Kisaragi Hayato, Emile Crossford, you guys will act with me, I will immediately leave from——』

『That is impossible, Claire-sama』

The voice of Chris stopped the words of Claire.

『Claire-sama, please continue the instructions from here』

『Chris, what are you saying masuno? All of this is our fault——no, this is my fault because I made the security plan assuming attacks done by Slayers only desu. If I take responsibility by going to the battlefield——』

『For that reason, Claire-sama should take command here. As our Student Council President and as the Captain of Little Garden, only Claire-sama is allowed to have all the authority』

– In that case, now that authority will be yo——

『I don't have the capacity. Erika-san thinks so too. Claire-sama is the only person who can relieve with words the anxiety of the residents and encourage the Slayers of Little Garden. So please, Claire-sama, do your work as the commander』

『It's as Chris says, Claire.《LiZA》also supports the words of Chris...「EXACTLY」 she says』

『Wha——』

It seems that Claire was at a loss for words because she checked the message log from《LiZA》who is Liza Harvey, her little sister.

As Charlotte says, Hayato understood what was written as「EXACTLY」and let

out some words.

– President, please leave the guy on the top glass to us.

『But——』

– The president said it **at that time**, right? Don't try to carry everything by yourself, trust us more. So, we'll definitely stop that *replicant*. Isn't that right, Emile?

– Yeah, that's right, but...

– Hmm, did something happen?

He saw Emile pouting her lips and showing a discontented expression on her face.

– I was thinking, what do you mean with "**at that time**"?

– Ah...

– What's that reaction? Are you hiding something from me?

– No, it's nothing like that.... There was a moment when I was alone with the president during the previous operation. At that time, we were having a talk
——

『Ki-Kisaragi Hayato...! This is not the case to be talking about something like that masenwayo!』

Clearing her throat with an *Ahem*, Claire continued.

『Umm... That's right desuwane. Understood. We will entrust that matter to you. However, there are conditions——』

During those emptied seconds.

Hayato gulped.

『You will absolutely not die. And, nobody will die, including residents, visitors and Slayers of Little Garden——that's all desuwa』

– Understood.

– Of course.

Hayato and Emile reply together.

『Good reply desuwa』

A satisfied voice came back.

Next, Hayato said.

– Solving this quickly, will let the founding festival continue. I haven't heard the songs of Karen and Sakura yet.

Maybe that's not something that should be said in this situation.

But, those were the true feelings of Hayato.

『You are right desuwane』

Listening the voice that slipped out a giggle, Hayato felt relieved.

For a moment, the tension relaxed.

However, it tightens with the voice of Chris that was heard next.

『Claire-sama, the durability of the top glass has decreased to 40%. A part of it's damaged! Fragments are falling to the ground!』

『What did you say!?!』

– Hayato, let's deploy our Hundred quickly!

– Yeah, got it.

They must exterminate the *replicant* before it invades Little Garden by destroying completely the top glass.

Hayato and Emile takes out the *Variable Stone* and shouted all together.

『『HUNDRED ON』』



– Thank you for waiting, Claire-sama.

While being out of breath, Erika rushed in the briefing room.

– Chris, do you have any new information?

– Currently, at the front deck, the Slayers of the Army of Gutenberg and the

Slayers of Warslan are fighting the *replicant* type Savages. As Charlotte-sama was saying, if it's a weapon with strong *energy*, they can destroy their arms and body, and if they destroy the *Variable Stone* hidden inside the body, it's probable that their activities will cease.

– And at the back of the deck?

– We dispatched 3 talented Slayers of Little Garden over there, their names are Latia Saint-Émilion, Fritz Grantz and Liddy Steinberg. It's based on the selection of《LizA》. Other Slayers are guiding residents and visitors to evacuate to safe underground *shelters*.

– What left is the most problematic thing, the *replicant* on the top glass, huh...

– Kisaragi Hayato and Emile Crossford are heading there masuwa. So please be relieved.

– Is that so...

If it's those two, then they will do it somehow or other.

When Erika was convinced about it, Chris cut into the conversation from the side.

– Err, Claire-sama...

– What is it desuno?

– It's about the top glass, but there are traces that someone has appeared from inside the gigantic *replicant* and trespassed inside Little Garden right after it was destroyed.

– ... there is no doubt about it desuno?

– I will play a video now.

Claire and all the present of the briefing room were focused on the monitor.

Although the camera is from a distant place and the image quality is bad, they see that it's as Chris says.

– It looks she has become quite a strong woman, huh.

Suddenly surprised by the voice emitted from the back, Claire turns around.

– Onii-sama!?

The ones standing there were Judal, her older brother and Neveah Grauss, a bobcat female Slayer and also his bodyguard.

– What do you mean with strong, Onii-sama?

– I guess, she's Vitaly, right?

– Eh...?

Claire zooms in the video before her eyes.

Brown skin, long hair.

And a white robe that lies over her.

– Certainly, it feels like she's Vitaly, but...

The woman in the video overlaps with the appearance of Vitaly in the memory of Claire.

She's tall and has a good figure.

However, the woman in the video gives the feeling of being approximately a size bigger.

(Does that really mean that she became strong desuno?)

In other words, she has been training her body.

– But, she's not a Slayer masenwayone—don't tell me that she turned into an artificial Variant?

She thought so, as this is a reason other than training her body.

Even though the interior of Little Garden is filled with soil, there are places where hills were made, but the distance from the top glass to the ground should be 80 meters.

Even if it's the roof of the school building, the distance is 40 meters.

It won't be possible for her to land without *sense energy*.

– No, that's not it. Although the video is from a further distance, I can see that she's using a parachute in the middle of it.

– If so, then she’s just a human? But, why is she alone...?

Claire puts her hand on her mouth, pondering.

– Chris, aside from Vitaly, is there any trace that a human-like existence trespassed from the top glass?

– Negative. Besides, it seems that a lot of hornets have invaded and have been found inside Little Garden.

Chris replies.

Hearing the door opening there, Claire turned her eyes.

What met her eyes was the figure of Judal who is about to leave the room alone.

– Onii-sama? Where are you going?

– I’m just going out because there is a little something that I have to take care of.

– Are you going alone masuno? Vitaly is coming too masunoyo. The risk is...

– There’s no problem at all. Even I’m carrying a gun.

Judal shows a gun that he took out from his chest to Claire.

– However...

– It’s fine to let him do as he likes.

The one who said so is Charlotte.

– Saying that he’s going alone, then that has a meaning in its own way, right?

– No way, Onii-sama...

He intends to go to **Liza**— —

Thinking so, there’s no place where she can put it into words.

The one who knows about the existence of the **little sister** in this place, excluding Judal and Claire, is Charlotte.

– Claire, please believe in me.

Smiling eerily, Judal left behind the briefing room.

Chapter 5: Separation *Each of their battles*

Vitaly and Judal

– What, is this...? What the hell is going on outside?

Krovahn, who was confined with Nakri and Nesat in the drawing room for guests in the basement of Little Garden, muttered while looking up at the ceiling.

The walls were shaking a lot of times from a while ago and the ceiling was making creaking sounds, to the point that it could fall at any time.

– somehow, I have a bad feeling.

Nakri was about to open the door locked from outside and asked Nesat who muttered so as she remained sat on the sofa.

– You felt something?

Nesat nods.

– But it's nothing more than a hunch.

– You mean that Vitaly isn't coming to help us, huh? Now, if I'm not mistaken, this ship came alongside to a port somewhere in Liberia.

– That should be correct. But, I have an unpleasant feeling.

– What do we do, Krovahn?

– Even if you tell me what to do...

Sitting on a chair, Krovahn surveyed the room.

The lobby boasts its space in its own way, it's a guest room with three beds placed in it.

Honestly, the treatment was too good for prisoners of war.

They aren't subject to tortures or interrogations, and even the meals are served properly.

If they get in touch with the communication device installed in the room, they

will receive almost all what they want.

The three of them aren't in their Variable Suits, they are wearing casual clothes.

Krovahn wears a white T-shirt and black shorts.

Nakri wears a camisole and short pants.

Nesat wears a white dress that contrasts nicely with her brown skin.

The three of them selected those from several clothes that were prepared and so they were provided with them.

The underwear is washed and carried every day.

However, when they tried to get in touch with the communication device, there was no reply.

Maybe an accident or something is happening, and they are in distress?

Or...

(I understand that the guys of Little Garden aren't bad guys. But, I don't trust them completely)

Krovahn looks the back of his right hand.

It used to have a *Variable Stone* implanted in it, but not anymore.

The scientists of Little Garden pulled it out.

That's the same for Nakri.

But, that's not the same for Nesat.

Nesat who lost one of her eyes because of an injury she took in the past, secured her eyesight with the artificial eye in which the *Variable Stone* is implanted.

Because it was difficult and pitiable to snatch it away from her, there was no need to take it away.

— — —Uwaah!?

The walls and ceiling shake furiously once again, and it's Nakri who fell to the ground because she was kicking the door.

Making a sound, the electricity went off.

– Alright!

Resolving himself, Krovahn stood up.

Nesat, can you tear down the door with your Hundred?

– ... that's, impossible...

– Why? Nobody's going to say you're deploying it without permission, right?
After all, this is an emergency.

– But, there's nothing to copy here.

– Ah, you're right...

The ability of the Hundred of Nesat is copy—it can't be deployed without any target.

– In that case, there's no choice but to break the door without a Hundred, huh.... To start with, it's impossible if it's in normal conditions, but now that there's a power outage, then we may do it. There's a possibility that the *barrier* against physical attacks is gone.

– Then I'll help with that too.

Bump Bump, Krovahn and Nakri do ramming attacks to the door by turns without stopping.

There's no response from outside.

The surveillance camera installed in the room probably isn't functioning due to the power outage.

– Seems like we're doing it.

Even though this was nothing else but a room of Little Garden, it was a substitute of a prison. There's no barrier either. The shape of the door changes while they incessantly collide with it.

Thereupon, Nakri proposes.

– How about kicking it at the same time?

– Yeah, let's try it.

Krovahn continued, showing his consent.

– Then, let's go with one, two, go!

– Yup!

「「One, two, go!」」

When Krovahn and Nakri kick up gathering their voices, the door bends and flew off into the corridor.

– Alright!

– Now we can go out.

Krovahn and Nakri look at each other and smile with a grin.

– I'll take a look outside.

Saying that, Krovahn went to the corridor.

– There's not a single window, so this looks like a basement, huh. Besides, it seems safe to say that something is going on.

Krovahn said, looking around the corridor where emergency lamps are turned on in red.

– We don't know the situation, so why don't we go towards the surface first?
Nakri, Nee-chan, let's go!

When the three of them started running, an announcement done by the voice of a boy starts to echo in the corridor.

『This is a state of emergency. This is a state of emergency. Currently, Little Garden is receiving an attack by someone. The general public as well as the visitors of Little Garden, please evacuate to the *shelter* immediately』

The next thing they heard were the sounds of explosions and gunshots.

– Krovahn, someone's attacking after all!

– Yeah.... And now, I heard gunshots....

Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri were able to listen carefully by stopping their legs and heard from the direction they are moving a gunshot again.

Then, a scream.

And then, they hear footsteps.

They are quite fast.

– H-help me! Ah, you guys!

A guard belonging to Little Garden appeared before their eyes, he seems to be surprised, looking at Krovahn and the girls.

Being unable to stand up due to the surprise, he sat down on the ground.

– The hell happened?

– Hii!

When Krovahn asks him, the man twitches his face with fear.

– We're not going to hurt you. So, tell us. What's happening?

– Te, terrorists. Savages created by terrorists came out from the ships that crashed into, the outside is in chaos....

– What!?

– Also, a woman with a machine gun attacked me and my companions....

– What kind of woman?

– It's a woman who wore a ragged white robe and has the same skin like you.

– It's Vitaly! She came to rescue us!

– Hey, wait!

Krovahn grabs strongly the shoulder of Nakri who started running.

– Think carefully. Vitaly said that she doesn't harm normal people, right?

Besides, the Savages—

– But, look, Krovahn! It's Vitaly!

– Eh...

Turning back, he saw Vitaly who held a machine gun in her hands turning around the corner of the corridor.

– See? As I thought, she came to rescue us!

– Still, wait!

Saying so, Krovahn sprung out in front of Nesat and Nakri.

– Why are you guys here?

Vitaly showed a surprised look for a moment and advances with her feet where Krovahn and the others are, while turning the long slits of her gaze.

Her height is high, her body is large too.

As a result, the sense of intimidation and impressiveness that she has are considerable.

– ... saying “why are you guys here” means that you didn’t come to rescue us, right?

– Well, I knew you were in Little Garden. I never thought that you would be sneaking away like this.

– You see, Krovahn? Vitaly came to save us after all.

– Even if that’s the case, would you mind explaining what’s this chaos!? Moreover, even if they are soldiers, you seem to be hurting ordinary people who aren’t Slayers, isn’t it!?

– This is Little Garden, the lair of the Slayers. Surely civilians and soldiers aren’t Slayers, but they are cooperators. It’s inevitable to have a few victims. However, I haven’t dirtied my hands yet.

– Still? How do you say that!? You were saying that our revenge was against the Slayers. For what kind of purpose did you come here? Moreover, it’s said that Savages are appearing outside. No way, you did that too!?

– So you know that much, huh? Those are the weapons that I made using the cores and the bodies of the Savages.

– Those are the, ones we gathered...

– Exactly. I’m sure outside is going crazy.

– Wha——

Shaking his shoulders, Krovahn makes his cheeks become stiff and grabs the collar of Vitaly.

– Vitaly, what the hell are you planning to do!? Your purpose is to destroy

Little Garden!?

– Sorry, but I don't have much time to stick with you playing house.

Vitaly pushed away the body of Krovahn and touched the terminal that was put on her arm.

Thereupon, Krovahn suddenly falls to the floor.

– Wha...! What is, this...?

Krovahn said, while showing an anguished look and holding down his head.

Similarly, Nakri and Nesat also hold their heads, falling to their knees on the ground with a painful expression.

– Kuh... what did you do to us! Vitaly!

– I'm emitting noise that gives stimulus to the Variant Virus that flows in your blood. How is it, you are unable to move, right?

– ... shit!

– Stay right there. If you still try to rebel, then I won't go easy on you.

Vitaly turned the muzzle of the machine gun in her hands towards Krovahn.

– ... Krovahn!

Despite suffering from the noise that resonates in her head, Nesat keeps turning a hostile look to Vitaly.

However, she can't stand up.

While clenching her teeth, the best that she can do is to stand the nails on the floor.

Next to her, Nakri was sobbing with her hands on the ground.

– Why, why are you doing something like this!? Does this mean that you just helped us in order to be used by you!?

– That's right——

Vitaly answers coldly and put her finger on the trigger of the machine gun.

– I won't let you!

It's the voice of a woman that resounded in the corridor.

It's the voice of a woman in maid clothes with cat ears on her head.

Vitaly stared in wonder, looking at that figure.

– You bastard are the *automaton* that Linis made for childcare!

– I'm not an *automaton*. Mei Mei's name is Mei Mei!

Vitaly turns the muzzle towards Mei Mei.

However, Mei Mei approached Vitaly instantly by sliding on the floor and launched a kick.

– ——kuh!!

The machine gun flies off from Vitaly's hand.

However, Mei Mei doesn't loosen the way of the attack.

Rotating her body, she launched turning kicks one after another.

With that, the body of Vitaly strikes the wall.

In an instant, it seemed that the victory was decided.

But, by taking a handgun that Vitaly had tied to her leg, the situation was reversed.

(She got, me...)

Mei Mei didn't assume that she still had weapons.

She tries to shorten the distance, but she doesn't make it in time.

Vitaly will try to pull the trigger of the gun at any time.

BAAAAAAAAANNNGG...!

– Kuhh!

Mei Mei immediately calculated the trajectory and tried to dodge it by averting her body, but it wasn't enough and received the bullet on the right shoulder.

– It looks like I started to... move a little late...

While saying that, Mei Mei crouches, pressing down the air hole of the

opened right shoulder.

The wiring of the mechanism that was shot became uncovered, sparks were scattering.

– ... but, I can fight again.

Mei Mei tries to stand up.

There, Vitaly mercilessly fired bullets again.

– ... ah.

Mei Mei received the bullets on her legs, she lost the balance of her body and fell down from her face.

(I can't move if my legs are destroyed...)

At this rate, the core inside her body——the *Variable Stone* might be destroyed.

That will result in the suspension of her activities, but if that's the case it's possible to repair her.

The problem is if she destroys the memory chip in the device of the ears.

In that case, she's going to lose her memory.

(I would rather avoid getting to that extent, but...)

What should I do from now on? Mei Mei tries to ask《LÍZA》and Charlotte using the communication device implanted in herself.

The state of the radio is strange from a while ago.

That much makes her worry if it's going to connect or not.

(Oh, it connected! Eh——)

When she noticed, the figure of Vitaly had disappeared.

What she was able to catch with her hearing system are the footsteps that went away.

Vitaly seems to have left this place behind with the nice gap that was made.

(Somehow or other, it looks like I was saved)

Raising her body, Mei Mei called out the three people.

– Is everyone okay?

– Yeah, somehow.... You saved us.... Or rather, what on earth are you?

While saying so, Krovahn tries to get up.

– Apart from having to talk about that this time, please don't push yourself now. I don't think that the health of everyone, from what Mei Mei can see, is getting back to form.

– But, if we don't go after Vitaly...

– About that, please wait a moment. Even if you go after her, I think it will result in the same thing as before. That is why Mei Mei will contact her master who will think of how to deal with the problem.

Saying that, Mei Mei started talking with Charlotte with whom she was able to establish a line.

– Charlotte-sama, do you hear me, Charlotte-sama?

『Yeah, I hear you from a while ago』

– If so, then I guess you know...

With that as a preamble, Mei Mei tried to capture Vitaly Tynyanov who had been battling with the gang of three.

Then she informs her that she was shot and that Vitaly escaped.

『So, are they safe?』

– They have no injuries, but it seems that they took a mental attack with some kind of radio waves. I presume that it's effective only against the Slayers, because Mei Mei and the guards in this place weren't affected. Do you think so too?

– Y-yeah...

While he kept his back on the wall, the guard who was flopping down and sitting on the floor nodded with the call given by Mei Mei.

– And finally, it seems that the communication devices have been affected

too.

『But now it seems that they were restored. I can also confirm the images of you guys properly from me. You were shot in the shoulder and legs by Vitaly, right?』

– Affirmative, Vitaly seems to have a powerful gun that can pierce barriers with *energy*. Can Charlotte-sama repair me afterwards?

『Of course. Although I don't know if I can do it skillfully like Linis, your creator』

– So, about the problem with Vitaly, she is probably heading further underground. What should we do?

『In that state, even if you catch up with her, there's nothing that you can do. So wait there. I'll go over there right away. Judal already headed to Liza』

– Eh, the company president-sama?

『If she's after Liza, then he'll do something. If she couldn't do it at that time, then she won't be able to do it. Well then, I'll be heading there after this. Wait for about three minutes please』

– Wait a minute!

It was Krovahn who shouted when Charlotte tried to cut the line.

– The doctor with whom you are talking now is the one who took our Hundred, right? We have some questions.

– Yes, she is, but.

– If so, let me talk with her. Do you hear me?

『Yes, I hear you』

The voice of Charlotte echoed from the speaker of the corridor.

Their voice seems to have been caught by the microphone equipped in Mei Mei.

– We have a request. Please return the Hundred to me and Nakri.

『Why?』

– There are Savages outside, right? Vitaly was saying that they were made with the cores and *Variable Stones* of the Savages that we gathered. Therefore, we want to avoid damage to ordinary persons and to this sphere of life. That's our responsibility. So, we want to stop them. That's the same for Nee-chan and Nakri, right?

When Krovahn wished for their consent, Nesat and Nakri nodded.

– Even though we can't fight with Vitaly, we can fight with the Savages. So, please!

– Yeah, we want to fight for Little Garden. You've treated us well so far. Nesat thinks the same, don't you?

Nod, Nesat nods.

– What do we do, Charlotte-sama? I don't think they are telling lies, but...

『That's what I've understood from the interrogation so far. What are you going to do, Claire? Are you going to let them go to the battlefield?』

『Chris, what is the judgment of《LIZA》?』

『The answer that came back is 《They are trustworthy people》』

『Is that so...? Besides, it is certain that we want fighting power even if it's one person desuwane...』

『In other words, you will send them to the battlefield?』

『Krovahn, Nakri, Nesat deshitawane. In view of the present moment, we will release you as an emergency countermeasure. Therefore, Little Garden temporarily hires you as mercenaries masu. Do you accept desuka?』

– Yes, of course. Nee-chan and Nakri are also okay with it?

– ... yes.

– Say no more!

Nesat nods, Nakri answers.

– In that case, it's decided. President-san and Dr.-san, we'll be under your care.

『Got it. Then, come to the laboratory with Mei Mei. I'll try to make you go out to the battle ASAP』



– Now that the deployment has finished, let's go to the battle.

Emile said, looking up to the sky that began to dye in a madder red color.

– Go? How are we going to move to the top of the top glass?

『If you come outside from that place, and if you come from the direction of the coast just after——』

– That's not necessary.

Emile stopped the words of Chris that were heard through the wireless ring.

– Hayato, there's a shortcut.

– A shortcut...?

– Like this.

Using half of her *Arms Shroud* that was deployed like wrapping up her body, Emile created armaments, she created two turrets at the waist.

– Don't tell me that you're going to fly in the air using those as rockets...?

– Bingo! As expected of Hayato. By injecting these with accumulated *energy* in one go, it will make them have propulsive power. And so, we'll be on the top glass in a blink of an eye.

– You serious...? Are you really sure about this?

– Of course I am. Do you know what's the place where a hole was done?

Emile asks Chris of the briefing room.

『It's in the space between the school building and the male dorm where Hayato-san and Emile-san live』

– Roger. I got more or less its location. I can't see it from here, so let's move to the top of the school building first. Let's go, Hayato!

– Hey, wai... uwaah!?

Emile holds Hayato with both arms and sprayed *energy* from the two turrets towards the ground.

Their bodies with propulsive power are launched into the sky in an instant.

It took them 10 seconds to pass by the side of the stadium and landed at the roof of the school building of the high school martial arts department.

– That's the hole, hmm?

Looking up at the sky, Emile mutters.

To the eyes of Hayato who also looked up at the sky, a hole in the top glass and a huge *replicant* are reflected.

The size of the hole is around two meters in diameter.

– It seems we can come out from there. Here we go again.

– O-okay...

Emile jumps from the rooftop and injects *energy* from the turrets.

Hayato, along with Emile, tried to go through the opened hole in the top glass without stopping and so they were able to go outside Little Garden.

There are no *replicants* there, but there are hornets suspending in the air.

Several of them seem to be passing through the opened hole, invading inside Little Garden.

– We have to deal with the huge one quickly as well as with the small ones.

Emile landed on the top glass and returned the two turrets to particles, then she created something like an ax with *Arms Shroud*.

– The first will be the big one!

The moment Emile readied the ax turning it towards the *replicant*, it was a hornet type around it that launched an attack.

It bombards from its mouth, pointing at Emile.

– ... that's one of the small ones that Charlotte was talking about. They also look troublesome!

Emile dodges the fired beam and slashes at it with the ax.

However, it dodged it nimbly.

– Damn!

She reduces the ax to particles for a moment.

And then, she creates floating batteries.

– If my opponent is small, then these look better. I'll handle these guys with the floating batteries while Hayato takes care of the huge one!

– Got it!

Hayato responded and readied *Hien*, turning it towards the gigantic *replicant*.



At that time, on the rear deck of the ship, members of *Selections* including Fritz, Latia and Liddy were having a fierce battle with over 10 *replicants*.

– Going throuu— — —gh!

It's Latia who shouted, she struck hard her fist on the abdomen of an enemy.

The armor of the arm began to shine intensely, breaking through the thick steel shell, leaving a big hole in the body.

– What do you think of my *Strike Beast*!?

As planned by Latia, she was able to destroy the *Variable Stone* hidden inside its body, the core of the *replicant*.

That giant stops moving.

– With this, we've defeated 8体— —and there are 4体 more, huh.... Ah, but since these are artificial, then this counting system is bad, it'd be better to use 機, right...? Or not?*

***TN: Japanese language uses a range of counters to enumerate all sort of things. Here, it's used 体 (read as tai to use as a counter for humanoid forms) and then 機 it's used (read as ki to use as counter for machines, aircraft and lives in video games)**

It was Fritz who showed a faint smile as he unconsciously cracks a joke while confirming the number of the remaining targets, then he noticed that a *replicant* was trying to bombard Liddy in the middle of the battle.

There are no obstacles from the position where he is standing now.

– Vice president, it's dangerous— —.

Saying that, he bombards with the rifle of his right hand.

Splendid, the *energy* beam hit the head of the target as planned.

Liddy didn't receive the bombardment from the *replicant*.

– You saved me, Fritz Grantz.

– No, not at all, this is my job.

The weapon of his Long Shooter type Hundred, *Stronghold*, is a sniper rifle with a long gun turret which is like its name symbolizes— —a Shooting Star.

However, as its model name says, it specializes in combat style where long range shooting is the main constituent.

Therefore, it's frequent in battles to act as support.

In other words, he's like a moving battery.

(However, not being able to bombard freely makes the stress pile up, isn't it...)

A melee battle in a narrow range.

There's a possibility of friendly fire, as there's the town of Sangria over 200 meters across the sea and there's Little Garden on the other side.

The *replicants* have 3 meters in length approximately, they are bigger than humans, but their movement isn't so quick, so if he aims and shots with certainty then he's not going to miss, but if he pierces them then it will become a great disaster for the surroundings, so it's difficult to have the control.

『Can you hear me, Liddy!?!』

A sudden communication from Erika Candle in the briefing room was heard from the wireless ring.

『The remaining amount of *energy* of you and Latia Saint-Émillion is less than a quarter. We can't confirm it from here, but how many *replicants* are left?』

– Four!

Liddy replies.

『If it's that quantity, then I think you will manage somehow, so please be careful of the remaining amount of *energy*. We are counting on you』

– If so, shall we also give a hand to Fritz?

Smiling with a grin, Latia continued.

– Vice president, I need a favor. Can the vice president send flying the Savages over here with the spear please?

– Sure, I don't mind, but what do you intend to do?

– I'll launch them in the sky. If it's towards the sky, there's no problem for Fritz even if he does a strong bombardment, don't you agree?

– —I get it! Certainly, there's no problem if that's the case. That's a good idea for someone like you.

– Shut up! Let's start quickly!

– Then, without delay—

Liddy accelerates using *energy* from the booster of her waist and pierced strongly the body of a *replicant* with the giant huge drill of her weapon *Midgard Schrange*.

Latia relaxed her mouth and grinned before the imminent enemy, loading with energy her feet that were covered in armament that resembled boots and pulls one of her legs with all her might.

– It's perfect, vice president! You better be ready, Fritz!

– Yeah!

Fritz had already readied Shooting Star towards the sky.

Of course, the *energy* is already filled.

– Here I gooooo—! —! —!

– Shoot, Fritz!

– Yeah!

Aiming at the *replicant* that was launched high in the sky by Latia, a thick beam that whirls *energy* released from the right hand of Fritz opens a big hole in its body, destroying the *Variable* Stone, the core that was hidden inside.

Immediately after the explosion, that big body falls into the sea.

– Good job, now there's three to go, huh?

Following Liddy, Latia said.

– Let's do the same with the others! Nice one, Fritz!

– Thanks!



Second basement floor of Little Garden.

Vitaly is standing on the side of the wall of the NO TRESPASSING section in front of the Student Council Room and then sets a small explosive device on the shutter in front of her then returns the way she came.

She turns to the corridor where her safety was guaranteed and touched with her fingers the screen of the wristwatch type terminal.

Thereupon, a violent explosion sounds, a blast rolls up.

Returning to her original location to confirm it, there was a big hole in the shutter installed in the NO TRESPASSING section.

(Looks like the barrier is considerably weakened, since I was able to destroy it at once...)

That means that her plan is going smoothly.

As she advances and goes through the hole she made before, an elevator was there.

It has something like a sensor control.

Nonetheless, when she thrusts both hands into the opening of the door of the elevator, she could open the door slightly.

The inside of it looks like a box where people can get in it.

There are four remaining explosive devices.

It is certain that there must be another door beyond this point.

There's no problem about using only two explosive devices here.

She thought so and threw a explosive device into the elevator, then touches the screen of the terminal of the arm again.

An explosion sounds again, and the blast caressed her hair.

She returns to the front of the door of the destroyed elevator, there was a hole in the box, that was particularly lucky.

Then she throws another explosive device, touches the terminal and turns on the switch.

This should have destroyed the lower door.

(This will make the pursuers to not come along right away, but I shouldn't ignore my last arrow)

She must be extremely cautious.

Touching the screen of the wristwatch terminal, Vitaly sends instructions to the hornets that are outside.

(With this, my Savages and the Variants should begin to act violently. The Slayers will have to go after them to deal with them)

For this reason, she can push on towards her own goal.

Vitaly twines around the handrail of the elevator the tip of one of the wires she took out from the pocket as a substitute of a safety device and begins descending along the wall of the elevator.

When she gets to the deepest part, she found that the lower door was destroyed as expected.

There's one door remaining.

She mounts the explosive device, hides in the shade of the elevator and turns on the switch of the terminal.

Vitaly, with a hole in the last door, she finally reached the deepest part of Little Garden— —the part where Liza Harvey, the girl who became its power motive and brain is.

There's a person who greeted her.

– To think there's someone rude to interfere with the time of my little sister and I, and it had to be you, isn't it...? It's been a long time, Vitaly.

– Are you saying that you were waiting here for me to come?

– Yes, that's right.

Judal nods towards Vitaly who asked the question, staring in wonder as if she was surprised, then continued his words.

– You also thought that I was going to be here, don't you?

– I thought that you could save me the trouble if that was the case.

Taking out a gun from her chest, Vitaly turned it towards Vitaly.

– What are you doing with such a dangerous thing? What do you plan to do?

Judal raises both hands, but he's not showing a expression like being frightened in fear.

He was keeping a composed look.

– The reason is one you know very well.

– The revenge on me that you threw away— —but that's not it, no?

Judal loosens his mouth. His composed attitude doesn't change.

– You didn't understand that well, isn't it?

– But, that's your misunderstanding.

– ... misunderstanding? What are you saying? You used to pretend that you loved me and then you casted me away.

– This is the conversation we had at that time, yes? Lunaltia Project, which is an important matter for Warslan from now on— —the one most competent

during the first stage of Little Garden project was Charlotte and not you. That's why I put her on the top and I left you as the head of the laboratory of Rasiya, your hometown.



– Lies! I was degraded in Rasiya for using the vast *energy* of Liza as the power motive—the core of Little Garden, and for things like telling the whereabouts of my colleagues to the Savages. As a result, it seems that it was identified that there was a possibility of putting the world in a critical situation!

– You are wrong. I should have said at that time that it was regrettable to use an excellent engineer like you as the right arm of Charlotte. Besides, you weren't able to control Liza properly, and that didn't turn out well with your surroundings, as opposed to Lunaltia project. That's the reason why I told you to come outside of the HQ temporarily and to come back giving results. From there, it was you yourself who got involved with illegal human experiments with the research of artificial Variants that was entrusted to you, isn't that correct? The possibility was closed by yourself. With unsightly emotions, like envy.

– Envy? Are you saying that I was being envy of someone?

– Of my mother Linis, the person who was your teacher, and of Liza over there, right?

– ...!!

– My mother Linis gave me a dream to me who was a defective article and Liza who made my dream come true. It doesn't change the fact that the two people connected by blood are special and important people who must have priority over anyone else.

– That's why I joined the terrorist group that freed me from prison, created perfect artificial Variants and completed the artificial Savages with artificial *Variable Stones* as cores. In order to steal those important ones from you. In order to give you despair.

– Completed? What are you talking about?

Judal relaxes his mouth and laughs like making fun of her.

– Completion is a perfect success. That you came to Little Garden by yourself **means that the research of artificial Variants isn't perfect yet, correct?**

– ...!!

– I suppose the artificial Savages aren't perfect either. Rather, if you were able to handle them like a Tamer type Hundred, then their current state would be just violent. If only you could just create them with the technological strength of Warslan.

– Who gives a damn about what you are saying!? The fact that you are being cornered like this won't change. Besides, it's about time for the last arrow to be released outside.

– ... last arrow?

– That's right. I set up a device to emit specific radio waves to some of the Savages I made, like the hornets. If that radio wave flows out, the Slayers won't be able to move normally and the artificial Savages and artificial Variants should rampage.

Smiling with a grin, Vitaly continued provoking Judal.

– It really helped that security was sloppy, Judal. It's because you are using children so you can pull the strings and do as you like. In that case, I'm not going to be like you.

– ... hou. I didn't expect you to say such a thing. Perhaps if I say that I want you again, you'll become my ally and do wonderful terrorist countermeasures?

Judal walks up to the position of Vitaly and touches her cheek with his hand.

Vitaly shakes off his hand.

– You're going to use me as a woman again! Don't fuck with me!

– Moments ago, I said such a thing but, it doesn't mean that I didn't recognize your skill. That's true. I also wanted your research results and experiment results. At any rate, I located the hideout you were hidden, and I ordered to investigate it, but it looks like you don't have data remaining.

– If so, then this is the compensation.

Vitaly turned the muzzle towards Liza.

– What are you doing?

– It's about choosing between me and Liza.

– There’s no choice like both?

– If I release myself from the binding spell of Linis by destroying Liza, then you —Judal, **you** haven’t changed anything. In that case, I will give you your final words. That is also for the sake of this world.

– If so, then I must deal with you.

Judal takes a gun from his breast pocket and turned its muzzle towards Vitaly.

– If you shoot, I’ll also shoot. With this enhanced 《E Tranquilizer》, not only the barrier deployed to cover the capsule, but also the tempered glass and the barrier of *energy* covering the body of Liza can be destroyed.

– You sure?

– ... what?

– Please take a look at Liza.

– ——!?

Vitaly stares in wonder, looking at Liza.

The reason is that Liza is opening her eyes.

– No way, Liza is waking up——

– Do you know Kirishima Sakura, the artificial Variant you created?

– Kirishima Sakura...? The experiment at that time, the only one who survived...

– Liza seems to be delighted with her songs. Every time she sang, there was a sign of awakening. Now, thanks to the *live concert* being done just now, she woke up with my pinch in this way. She’s truly the little sister of her dear older brother. Or is it because we made too much noise here?

The monitor on the side of Liza shows a reaction.

Looking at the letters displayed there, Vitaly makes her spine shiver.

——If you try to kill Onii-sama.

Then I won’t allow it——

– Hi... ah, aaaaaaaa———!!

Vitaly pulled the trigger towards Liza, screaming like mad while her face becomes stiff in fear.

Many, many times over.

The gunshots echo in the confined space.

As Vitaly was saying, the fired bullets destroyed the defense membrane affixed to the capsule and perforated the capsule too.

But, all of them were stopped with a light blue defense barrier that appeared before Liza.

– ... hii!!

Vitaly who saw the bullets falling to the floor, scattering, turns her gun towards Judal in panic.

– I-if you are going to hurt me, then Judal— Vitaly couldn't say much more than that.

When she noticed, her surrounding was being encircled by 5 Lizas.

– Wh-what are you...! You monster!

Vitaly shots bullets towards the Liza standing diagonally, but they pass through the body.

– Wha...

Vitaly noticed that the Lizas standing around herself weren't substances but masses of *energy* that shaped Liza.

– It was a cruel thing to say that my little sister is a monster.

– —ah...

Vitaly realized that Judal before her eyes was having a gun at the ready, but she couldn't do anything.

There are no more bullets in the gun of her hand.

— —*Bang*!

Along with the gunshot, the body of Vitaly flew backwards.

– Ju, dal...

Saying so, the chest of Vitaly is stained red.

Blood was flowing out from her mouth.

– ... I didn't want this kind of end, but it was inevitable. It's a pity that I won't be able to show you the future that I'll create from now on, Vitaly.

Judal lowered the gun and approached the position of Vitaly, looking down on her appearance.

– What on earth are you saying— —

– Come to think of it, I forgot to say this. Concerning the results, and thanks to you, my plan has made a considerable progress. I'm really grateful.

– ... kh, being told that, it makes me get sick of myself for being a little happy.

– Was that your resolution?

– Who knows?

– ...

Judal gently smiled and crouched down.

– I'll take care of you until your last moment.

– Judal, you really are a heartless man...

– I know. That's why I don't love women anymore.

Saying that, Judal kisses Vitaly.

– Love can be a chance to demonstrate tremendous power, but it can also be a shackle.

– You really... are... a fool...

Vitaly closed her eyes and passed away in the arms of Judal.

– ... Fool, huh... That may be. However, this is the path I chose.

Putting the body of Vitaly gently on the floor, Judal stood up and turned his eyes towards Liza herself and not the five Lizas, which are masses of *energy*.

– Liza, thanks to you I barely escaped from death.

Then, characters were displayed on the monitor.

—As your little sister, of course.

– Then, an advice as your older brother. Take a rest again. We will restore the power once again when the moment comes.

—Negation*.

***TN: Written by the author in english.**

The five bodies of Liza that are mass of *energy* disappeared.

However, Liza in the capsule didn't close her eyes.

– ... negation? What do you mean?

—I can't sleep yet.

– You can't sleep?

—Because I have something to do.

– Are you going to be the helper of Claire and the others?

—Exactly.

The body of Liza who smiled gently in the capsule emitted a blue brilliance.

Chapter 6: Noise *Running wildly* The ability of Liza

– Uooooo—!!

Hayato slashes at the gigantic *replicant* over the top glass with the brandished *Hien*.

However, the hardness of the steel shell wasn't different to a regular Savage, it didn't even get scratched.

– It seems that I'll have to do it with all my strength after all.

He's not going to let it do more damage to the top glass.

Taking distance from the *replicant*, Hayato took a big deep breath.

Emile, who was looking at their appearances with a sidelong glance, seems to have noticed what Hayato is about to do now.

While destroying the hornets floating in the sky with the beams she fired from the floating batteries, she asks Hayato by communication.

『Hayato, are you going full armament?』

– It's bad if I do so?

『No, there's no problem』

Shaking her head, Emile continued.

『If anything happens, I'll definitely stop it. Of course, it would be the best if such a thing doesn't occur, and if it's Hayato, then I think you'll be alright』

– I appreciate that you say so.

Hayato smiled, loosening his mouth and then, in a complete change, glared at the giant *replicant* with a sharp gaze.

(By defeating this guy, I'll return to the *live* venue!)

And then he'll praise Karen who finished singing with Sakura with *Good job, you did it well*.

Stroking her head, like always.

And if she wants, he'll kiss her forehead.

(For that, I——!!)

A red aura starts to rise up from the body of Hayato.

– Here I go!

While raising a loud voice, the aura swells up in one go, making a thick and large transformation of the sword and armor of the arms of Hayato.

『That's perfect, Hayato!』

Emile's bright voice reaches his ears.

– Looks like I did it somehow or other.

There's no problem with the armament. He's also retaining his self.

The full armament is——a success.

Hayato checked that there wasn't anything wrong and looked up at the enormous *replicant* that is aiming at himself with a sharp look and rather than stopping the pincers that were swung downward, he cut them off as he was with *Hien*.

Thud, the right pincer fell over the top board.

Nevertheless, the *replicant* raised overhead both arms again without minding about it, the mechanisms built inside the steel shell were just disconnected.

Things like crackling and sparks are scattering in the severed part.

Even if it were to swing down that arm, it won't be a decent attack.

– Awesome, Hayato. Finish it right away.

– Roger!

Answering shortly to Emile, Hayato kicked the top glass and jumped high.

He tried to release an attack on the head of the giant *replicant* by swinging *Hien*.

And then, something like Japanese wires were ejected from its back.

(What are these!?)

It's an attack it didn't exist till now.

Naturally, he didn't predict it.

Moreover, it attacks Hayato, changing the pointed end of the wire to a sharpened rhombus thing similar to a **kunai**.

— ... kuh!!

Brushing away those with *Hien*, Hayato lands on the top glass for a moment.

The wires attack him once again.

— Enough, these are a bothersome!

The wires approach, altering their movement as if they had their own will.

This time, Hayato used *energy* and evades them with a jump, then sliced off the enormous *replicant* from above.

— Take thi———s!!

The thick blade comes in contact with the head of the giant *replicant* that is taking action.

But even with the full armed blade, he can't swing completely the arm in this state.

Still, Hayato doesn't give up and pumped *energy* into *Hien*.

The pattern drawn on the blade by the poured *energy* emits a red brightness and the light expands greatly in a shape that wraps up the sword.

Crack, the top glass made a noise.

With the arms moving, Hayato realizes that the large build of the *replicant* sinks.

— ——eh, oh no!?

It was already too late when he noticed——as things are, the top glass would end up destroyed.

Breaking sound!!

– Uwaah!?

The top glass broke at the same time as the large build of the *replicant* was cut right in half.

The opponent and of course the body of Hayato fall to the interior of Little Garden.

– Hayato!

Emile screamed, stopping the battle with the hornets, reducing the floating batteries to particles—then creates two gun turrets at her waist with *Arms Shroud* and chased Hayato at full speed using *energy*.

However, she can't catch up with him.

(Dammit...!!)

Fortunately, there was no building at the falling point.

The giant *replicant* strikes hard the ground first, creating a crater-like hollow in it.

Reacting with that, the body of Hayato who was above was thrown into the air.

Emile accelerates, injecting *energy* from the gun turrets and caught his body in her arms.

– Hayato, are you alright?

– Yeah, somehow...

Responds Hayato in full armed state.

When Hien separated from his hand and was thrown into the air, it fell to the side of the *replicant*, it didn't hurt Hayato.

– Although the damage was big, it seems that I was able to defeat it.

– Yeah.

Saying so, Emile lands on the side of the *replicant* whose movement has already stopped.

Hayato got down and stood on the ground from the arms of Emile, then lifted

the visor and approached the *replicant*, and picks up *Hien* that had fallen on the ground.

Coincident with that, when looking at the *replicant*, he could also confirm the huge *Variable Stone* hidden inside its body, it was broken in two.

– This is the moment when I want to take a rest, but the battle hasn't ended yet.

Emile turns her gaze to the top glass that has a big hole.

The hornets were invading the interior of Little Garden from there.

– I must do something about that, will Hayato give me a hand?

– Of course.

– Okay then, let's do it.

Emile disintegrates the two turrets at her waist into particles— —and created floating batteries with *Arms Shroud*.

– I'll disturb them with the floating batteries as much as I can and gather them in a low position, so Hayato can chop them with *Hien*.

– Got it.

Immediately after Hayato nodded.

– We'll give a hand too.

– Eh...?

Right after they were called out all of a sudden.

Two rings passed by the side of Hayato and Emile and cut two hornets that were floating in the air right in half.

The rings that returned like boomerangs are familiar to them.

– You are...

Before Hayato and Emile who turned their eyes were standing the dark-skinned Krovahn who wore his black *Variable Suit* and Nesat and Nakri who had similar skin color and wore similar *Variable Suits*.

– Why are you guys here...?

– As you can see, we came to help you.

Nakri replied, catching *Duo Varga*.

Krovahn has already deployed his Crusher type Hundred *Orthros Liberio*.

Nesat also has a twin sword similar to the Hundred of Krovahn in her hand.

– What do you mean to help us!? The Savages and even those flying things were done by your companion who attacked Little Garden, you know!?

– ... you are correct. No, you were correct.

– I was correct?

Emile who blamed Krovahn inclines her head to the side.

– We are no longer partners with Vitaly who acted violently in such a place where civilians are.

Saying that and having *Orthros Liberio* at the ready, Krovahn jumped.

Thereupon, he chops a hornet.

– That was the same for us. We wanted to believe in Vitaly. But, Vitaly tried to kill us. She betrayed us! So, we asked the President and the Dr. to give us back the *Variable Stones*.

Nakri throws *Duo Varga* again and destroyed a hornet in four equal parts.

– That's why, we will, fight with you— —...

Nesat tried to follow Nakri, but she abruptly crumbled down from her knees while pressing her head in a painful-like manner.

At the same time the twin sword fell from the hand and dropped on the ground, it disappeared turning particles.

– Hey, Nee-chan, what happened so sudd— —eh...

Landing, Krovahn tried to head to where his older sister Nesat is, but he crouched, holding his head like her.

Similarly, Nakri also crouches, holding her head.

The weapons of the two also fell and disappeared, becoming particles at the same time.

– ... this is the sound of that time?

As if being in pain, Krovahn murmurs while doing small and repeated breaths.

– That's true, Krovahn.... This, is the same that Vitaly used with us...

It's Nakri who said so after him.

Just like Krovahn, she's doing short and repeated breathings.

– In short, you mean that this is something that Vitaly set up? And from is this sounding...?

Emile also asked, putting one of her knees on the ground, pressing her forehead.

Hayato is in the same state.

Still, Hayato looked at the sky, and noticed something.

– Emile, look at that.

– ... eh?

Ahead of the line of sight of Hayato, there's a hornet that stops moving in the air.

However, the red light of its whole body is blinking like a firefly.

– In other words, that means that the sound is coming from them?
Unbelievable! If so, why you guys don't know nothing!?

Emile inquires, turning her eyes to Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat.

– ... sorry... We didn't know... When he heard this sound from Vitaly moments ago, it was coming from a device similar to a wristwatch— —

– But, Krovahn... this is a bit different from that moment.... The Hundred of my arm is getting hot, it's kind of strange...!

– Me too, my eye is strange.... What is, this...?

– Damn, me too... the Hundred that is implanted in my hand.... It's aching...

Hayato and Emile also noticed their change.

The three of them are starting to release a strong black *energy* from their

bodies.

– Shit, the hell is this, thing...!

Krovahn murmured in pain, dropping his knees and putting his arms on the ground.

Right there, something flowed into Hayato.

It's an image when they were oppressed by Slayers of Al-Salaam in the Khmer Kingdom, their home town, when they were children.

– I'll kill you... by obtaining strength, someday to these guys I... We'll definitely give them hell, more than what they did to us...!

Murmuring so, Krovahn stands on the ground.

– Yeah, we... it's impossible to fight together with the Slayers or anyone... we mustn't fight... with the... Slayers... Vitaly is, no, Vitaly's also an enemy... we live by ourselves. We don't believe in anyone anymore...

– Yeah, the Slayers are our enemies... everyone, all of them, are our enemies... The human race mustn't be annihilated...!

– Hey... get a hold of yourselves! This is Little Garden. Besides, you guys were saying that you were helping is, isn't that right!?

– ... yeah, we know.

– Gritting his teeth in a painful way, Krovahn replies.

– ... We know th... dammit, what's this, it feels like I'm not being myself...

– What do we do, Hayato...?

– Even if you say what do we do...

– Resist, Nee-chan, Nakri...

Krovahn stands up with a desperate look.

– Otherwise, we... shit, the fuck is this... kh, ah... AAAAAA— — —!

Krovahn roared with a loud voice.

But, that's it.

After he fiercely released a black aura from his body, he collapsed to the ground from the front with a thud.

The aura can't be seen anymore.

That's the same for the other two.

— What just happened? The three of them aren't moving...

— Y-yeah...

Nesat and Nakri are like Krovahn, it seems they have fainted.

After 10 seconds when Hayato and Emile were watching the trio that fell lying face down on the lawn which was cut and cleaned.

Twitch, the hand of Nesat moves.

— ...

Remaining silent, the first one who got up was Nesat.

— ...

Next is Nakri.

— ...

Next is Krovahn who stands up and stares at Hayato and Emile.

The eyes of the three of them changed to a golden color.

Their pupils were in an opened-like state, and the brilliance of their eyes wasn't felt at all.

— Guys, are you alright?

— ...

Krovahn doesn't answer the doubt of Hayato.

— ——you're enemies.

And merely whispering so,

— *HUNDRED ON!*

While Hayato is puzzled, Krovahn deploys *Orthros Liberio* in his right hand.

Similarly, Nakri also,

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Saying so, she deployed *Duo Varga*.

They, unlike Hayato and Emile, don't seem to be reacting to the noise anymore.

And don't show a painful look.

Then, glancing at the weapon of Krovahn, Nesat murmurs.

– ... *Hundred On*.

A pillar of light stands towering over the surrounding heading towards the sky from the eyes of Nesat who looked up at the sky, and from the inside, a twin sword appeared, it's identical to the one that Krovahn is holding.

A copy of his Hundred.

They already know that her ability is a Trace type Hundred.

– ... target, confirmed.

Nesat picks up the twin sword and attacks Hayato.

Krovahn does the same.

Nakri attacks Emile.

– Damn, what the hell is this!? Even though you were saying that you were going to fight with us!

Dodging the assault of Nakri while enduring the noise, Emile shouts.

However, she doesn't reply.

– Emile, it's useless to speak to them! These guys, are in a rampaging condition like before—no, they are worse than at that time.

That time is of course, at the《Operation: Bird in Cage》.

At that time, they still were able to understand each other, but now that seems to be impossible.

– You're saying that they are completely dominated by the power of the

Variant!? But, why so suddenly...

– Maybe it's because of the noise resounding in their heads...

– But, we're also Variants, aren't we...? Yeah, the *energy* is getting hard to control, but rampaging is—

Even when she said so, Emile was taken aback.

– Perhaps Vitaly adjusted it to have some kind of effect only on the artificial Savages and artificial Variants, including these guys.

– Even if that's the case, it's really troubling, huh...

Additionally, due to the effect of the noise, the communication function of the wireless ring is unusable. It doesn't look like they can receive guidance to cut their way through this situation by contacting the president and the others.

Besides, if the replicants in other places are running wildly, then this can become a serious thing. Because of this noise, the performance of the Slayers is falling as well.

– Since we are in this situation, I guess we have no choice but to defeat them. The thing itself may not be difficult even for us now...

– I guess, so...

At any rate, the attacks of the trio clad in black aura are somewhat large.

Though they have a headache due to the noise, it's not to the point where they can't dodge or stop them.

– For now, we'll have to stun them to disarm them.

– Pretty much.

– In that case—

Resolving himself, Hayato,

– UooooOoOooooOoooo—!!

While raising a strange voice, he crawls under the bosom of Krovahn who raised overhead *Orthros Liberio* in a big way and struck him with *Hien* with all his strength.

– Ku, ha...

Bending like the < character, the body of Krovahn who whirled in the air fell on the ground.

Simultaneously with that, his armament was cancelled.

– As expected of Hayato! I'm not going to stay behind though!

With the already deployed floating batteries surrounding her body, she starts an attack towards Nakri who's attacking with two rings in her hands, the beams hit Nakri.

Still, that doesn't stop her.

She defended with a film of *energy* that covered the surroundings of her body and like Krovahn, slashes at her with a voice that wasn't words.

Emile fired beams from the floating batteries again while dodging her, but the result is the same.

(I'm not making any progress.... As Hayato was doing it, to make her lose consciousness, I must do it like this)

She was thinking that she could defeat the hornets while fighting Nakri, her opponent, but as the proverb says, if you run after two hares you will catch neither.

Emile thought that it would be better to focus on Nakri and reduced to particles the floating batteries— —and with *Arms Shroud*, she created a giant hammer with a total length of 3 meters.

There's no comparison with the chakrams of Nakri that have a diameter of 1 meter.

She was thinking of selecting a weapon that the length of the reach would work to her favor.

– This is the end!

Against Nakri who attacked with the two rings, Emile holds aloft the hammer using all her body.

It magnificently clashed with the body of Nakri.

Her body was sent flying to approximately 20 meters in the air.

– It's over.

As Emile says, the armament of Nakri was cancelled when she fell to the ground.

– Hayato, she's the only one remaining!

– Yeah, I know!

Nesat in front of him is swinging the blade continuously, but like with Krovahn, she doesn't hit Hayato.

Hayato was seeking a gap to cancel her armament so as to not injure her at all if possible while warding off her attacks with precision.

– Now!

With the gap he found, Hayato raises *Hien* and knocks down the twin blade and the body of Nesat.

– ... kuh!

The body of Nesat fell to the ground.

The twin blade separated from her hand, springing up on the ground then disappeared, becoming particles.

– Seems like we managed somehow. Are you okay, Hayato?

– I wonder the same, are you alright?

He asked back so, because Emile was kind of struggling too.

She supports her body with the big hammer she held in her hands, looking like she's continuously doing short and repeated breathings.

– Ahaha, maybe I'm a little tired...

– ... me too...

Hayato also supported his body using *Hien* like a cane.

The noise continues to ring in their heads as usual, and the pain is kind of pressing hard.

– Nevertheless, what was that just now? Why did these guys suddenly attack us...?

– Hayato, not yet! That one is still conscious!

– Eh...?

Pointed out by Emile, he turns his eyes to Nesat, and he realized that she was trying to get up, putting both hands on the ground.

– I'm not done... I have to protect Krovahn and Nakri...

The shutter of the eyepatch of Nesat opens.

What appeared is the dazzling and shining *Truth Eye*.

She captures the *replicant* that became a dead body—

– ... *HUNDRED ON*...!

A pillar of light extends from the *Truth Eye* as she looks up at the sky.

And unlike so far, the weapon doesn't appear inside of it.

Eventually, the light drops like a waterfall towards the body of Nesat, covering her body.

(... what on earth has happened?)

Looking at Nesat who appeared from the light, Hayato doubted his eyes.

– You're lying, right...

Nesat was wearing a thick armor of the same color as the steel shell of the Savages. In both hands, and like the pincers of the Savages where the two cut as their foundation, she's holding crescent moon-like swords.

Moreover, not only the pattern of the armament covering her whole body, but also her hair were shining brightly with a fluorescent color, like the original Savages.

(... full armament? Or when copying the *replicant*, she incorporated it herself?)

He doesn't know. He can't understand it.

She kicks the ground with her whole body clad in a shining aura

and swoops down on Hayato, making light to gush out from one eye.

——*Slash* !!

The attack of the sword that was diagonally swung downward is very heavy.

It will be difficult to stop it even in a healthy state.

Even more when the liberty of his body isn't effective like now and can't adjust the *energy*.

Even when he tries to ward it off with *Hien*, he isn't able to do it, his body ends becoming unstable.

The posture of Hayato broke down completely with the sharp sword of the left hand that was swung in a flash and his body struck the ground.

– ... kuh, Hayato!

Emile throws the hammer she had in her hands, reducing it into particles and created a rapier with *Arms Shroud*, and when she notices, Nesat crawled under her bosom.

– Kuh!

Emile, in a hurry, tries to stop the attack of Nesat.

The crescent moon sword opens suddenly, the rapier held by Emile is put between the two blades, then it's destroyed.

– ——wha!

An amazed Emile.

The rapier becomes particles.

There, with the other sword, Nesat launched an attack.

– Guaah!!

The body of Emile who was hit was blown off and rolled on the ground.

The armament cancels, *Arms Shroud* disappears.

– Damn it...

Emile spat out, annoyed.

Still, that's the best she can do.

The restriction of her body is more than ever.

Emile isn't able to move as she likes, she lay face down

She wasn't even able to put a finger on the ground.

Nesat tries to go after her.

(This is bad, at this rate Emile is!)

Hayato tries to get up, but his situation isn't different from Emile's.

He's not able to stand up, and because his head hurts even more because of the noise that gets more and more stronger, his consciousness is vague.

Because of that, the full armament state has also been cancelled.

(As things are, something really awful will...)

His consciousness gradually becomes distant.

He can't hear the loud heartbeats as usual.

What's in front of him is just darkness.

(Dam, mit...)

He tried to resist, but he couldn't do so.

The consciousness of Hayato gradually gets distant.



— Everyone, listen calmly!

Sakura grasped the situation by contacting the briefing room at the center of the stadium where chaos was developing as ever and began to inform the spectators.

— Now, Little Garden is in a grave situation as it is sustaining an attack of the terrorists. But, be at ease. This stadium is protected by the power of the *Variable Stones*, so it should be safer than outside. And from now on, the Slayers will guide you to the *shelters* in the basement—...kuh!

– Did something happen, Sakura-san... ah... uh!

Then, without warning, Sakura crumbled down from her knees, disfiguring her facial expression, then began to groan in a distressing manner while grabbing her head.

Karen tried to rush to where Sakura is, but she also collapses from her knees in the same way and begins to groan in a distressful manner.

『Sakura, what happened, Sakura!』

Souffle noticed the change of the state of the two and rapidly called out to them with the radio.

– I don't know, I heard a strange sound, then all of a sudden, I'm having a pain similar to a needle stuck into my head.... Why at a moment like this...? I mean, what on earth is this!?

Saying that, Sakura asks a question with the communication device.

– Souffle, do you know what is this!?

『I don't know. Speaking of things that I know, the Slayers who are in the venue and the Slayers who are in the places where I can confirm in the images are suffering more or less like you and Karen-chan』

– What did you say!?

『On the other hand the people who are in the control room and I can't hear anything and the effect is none—so that means that it may be a mental attack that uses something like ultrasound that can only be heard by the Slayers』

– Then, that is to say that Hayato-kun and the others who are fighting the terrorists and the *replicants* are also in a similar state to us!?

『That possibility is high』

– That's.... That's, it can't be ignored, not even for a second. And their situation is many times more dangerous than us!

While saying so, Sakura put a hand on the ground.

– Prepare the first program of the orchestra that we were going to sing at the

encore.

『... what on earth are you going to do?』

– I decided it, isn't it? With my song—

Sakura stood up and made a loud declaration.

– I will blow away the noise that is ringing in our heads!

And so, Sakura recovers.

『Sakura, you...』

– I don't have a fighting ability, but I can fight with songs. So, lend me your strength—

When Sakura shouts, the stage shone dimly. The *Variable Stone* embedded in the stage seems to respond to her call.

『Although the radio is dead and I can't get in touch with the Student Council, but if it's a wired one, and if the electricity is getting through, then I think that both the orchestra and you will be broadcasted』

– Well then, I'll leave it to you. Broadcast the orchestra!

– Please wat!

It was Karen who thrust herself into Souffle and Sakura with her voice.

– Sakura-san. Please allow me to sing. That song is the one that you were going to sing with Karen, isn't it? Karen also wants to become the strength of Nii-san and the others—

Karen tries to get up while saying so, but with her feet staggered, she ends falling down. It's because the armament was cancelled and went back to a Variable Suit state.

– Are you alright, Karen-chan!?

– Ah, yes... I'm fine...

Karen replied so, however, her voice seems to be struggling as she raised her face, placing both hands on the stage.

– Eh...?

At that time, it met her eyes. Just mere moments ago, a naked girl with blonde hair that shouldn't have been on the stage.

Things like stem of roses are twining around her head and body, and her whole body shines in a faint bluish-white.

— You are...

The girl doesn't respond the question of Karen.

——Your song was good.

— Eh...?

——I want to listen to your songs more.

It's not in her ears.

The voice is echoing in her head.

——So, I will grant you my power.

When she notices, a naked girl is on her side.

She was putting her hands on both cheeks of Karen.

— U-umm...

As a matter of course, Karen is confused.

Then the girl smiled sweetly and,

——Now, stand up.

And, sing——

Like Hayato did, the girl kissed the forehead of Karen, then vanished turning into particles.

— ... what's wrong, Karen-chan?

Sakura asks Karen who was spacing out, looking hard at the empty space.

— Right now, there is a naked girl...

— Eh?

Sakura turned her eyes to the point Karen indicated with her finger.

– But there's no one...

– Huh...?

Certainly, it's as Sakura says.

The appearance of the girl has already disappeared.

But——

(My body feels light... and my legs move too!)

It seems that she can get up as the little girl said just now.

(And not only that, I'm able to deploy the Hundred again as well——)

Karen picks up the ore that had fallen on the ground and stood up firmly.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Karen transforms the ore into a card and attempts to arm again.

– *Divine Card-san*, please grant me the encore costume!

Stretching her hand from the card that was put up towards the sky, the card that was put up high above her head flips, turning into particles, 6 big cards took form from that.

Before long, and when all the cards disappeared, Karen had finished changing clothes to a costume with exposed shoulders for the *live concert*.

It's a cute skirt with black and pink frills piled up a number of times on top of a tight suit that was like a swimsuit that had white as its basic tone.

The hair is pinned with a ribbon, making a ponytail, and around the waist there are decorations similar to wings.

– Sakura-san, I'm fine with this. Please let me sing!

– Karen-chan...

Sakura smiled when she saw Karen standing properly on the stage.

– If you look as such, then it seems you are really okay.

– Yes, no problem at all!

A communication from Souffle enters there.

『If so, let's do it. But because of the noise, it may be impossible to send a long distance radio, but we'll be broadcasting your songs with all the existing wired speakers for now』

— Thank you, Souffle!

Saying that, Sakura points her eyes to Karen.

— Let's do it, Karen! Let's make our songs reach Hayato— —and everyone!

— Yes!



(What is, this...?)

It was a powerful melody that kind of shook his body and reached the ears of Hayato who was about to lose consciousness.

The singing voices of Sakura and Karen are coloring the melody.

——Go for it, Hayato!

——Nii-san and everyone, please stay safe!

It doesn't mean they are talking to him directly.

Still, he felt as if they were at his side.

He feels that he can see their figures before his eyes.

The feelings of the two girls reach him thanks to their singing voices.

——Kisaragi Hayato, please raise your face.

Next, he heard a voice that was neither Karen's nor Sakura's.

He did as he was told and raised his face, a familiar nude girl stood there.

She's the girl he met in the basement with Judal Harvey, the company president of Warslan Company and the older brother of Claire Harvey, the Student Council President of Little Garden a month and a little ago— —she's the supreme decision-making body of Little Garden, the 《Little Garden Zenith Agency》aka 《LiZA》and her true identity is Liza Harvey, the second daughter of

the Harvey family who manages Warslan Company, a big military company that has its head office in the United States of Liberia.

– The little sister of the president, why are you...

Hayato confirms the figure.

At that moment, he noticed something.

The nature of the atmosphere that touched his body had changed.

Moreover, the time of his surrounding has stopped.

Nesat and Emile don't move.

Liza replied with a sweet smile.

『All the things that exist in Little Garden——the grass, the trees, the electricity of course, and even the atmosphere, are using my *sense energy*; you know that because you heard it from my older brother, don't you?』

– Eh, yes...

While puzzled, Hayato nods.

It's the first time he hears the voice of Liza like this.

It's a childish and immature voice that goes along with how she looks, but her tone is strangely mature.

『That's why it's possible for me to create an avatar of myself in this place. It's like I am a God in this place』

Saying that, Liza stretched her right hand to Hayato.

『Now, get up——』

Hayato puts his knees on the ground and tries to get up.

Grabbing the hands of Liza, he heard her voice in his head again.

『Kisaragi Hayato, I will grant you my strength』

– ... strength...?

『That's right, strength』

– Umm, what do you...

『The Slayers in other locations will be able to recover from the mental attack which was the last arrow that Vitaly Tynyanov launched with this wonderful song and defeat the *replicants*. However, the girl who copied the Savage here possesses a considerable strength and used it as armament. It would be easy if I could do it by myself directly, but now I am not able to do so』

– Then, you are saying that I have to do it?

『You are the protagonist who will end the climax of the defensive battle of Little Garden——I have chosen you as the God that rules over all things of Little Garden』

– But, I...

『What is it?』

– I thought that I don't want to defeat her, I want to save her. If I get a strong power, and if I kill her, then I'm sure that those guys... that Krovahn and Nakri will resent me and they'll surely think of revenge on me. In that case, nothing will change. Even them won't be saved, I want to save her and the others. Like Karen was saved in Little Garden. Like myself who became a Slayer and could have a dream in Little Garden. I want them to live here and have a dream too.

『Kisaragi Hayato, you are a very kind person. That is wonderful. As I thought, you are appropriate as a hero. In that case, You will have to take away her fighting spirit to make her disarm. I forgot, why don't you kiss her as the protagonist you are, putting your thoughts on your own Variant Virus and deliver them with that?』

Giggling, Liza smiles.

– Kiss you say? That's...

Hayato turns a fleeting glance to Emile.

『If you feel restrained or something with Emile Crossford, then persuade her. If it's with my power, then persuasion may be possible by *sympathy* even while receiving that girl's attacks. They are my responsibility, my judgement caused them to sortie. I didn't think that Vitaly was so meticulously prepared. That's why, if you say that you accept, then this small paradise of Little Garden——the one that my older sister Claire made and I, as the God of 《Utopia》, will allow

so』

– Eh...?

『Well then, Kisaragi Hayato——』

Placing his knees on the ground, Liza touched the cheeks of Hayato with both hands like wrapping up his face in a semi-bent forward state.

『I'm not being seen by Emile Crossford. So, it's okay』

– Wha——

Laughing in mischief, Liza kisses the lips of Hayato.

And then, she became particles and disappeared.

What just happened?

The interrupted time moves, and the strength returns to the body of Hayato.

– Haya, to...?

Emile stabs *Hien* on the ground, looking at Hayato who got up by using it like a cane and showed surprised.

It was kind of expected because the wounds of the whole body of Hayato had healed.

(What is, this...? This is, the power of Liza...?)

There's a sensation that strength is springing out from the bottom of his body.

His headache is gone thanks to the songs of Sakura and Karen.

– ... certainly, I'm able to fight now.

——are you listening to our songs?

With the singing voices, the feelings of Sakura resound in his mind.

– Yeah, I'm listening to them.

His words won't reach Sakura.

But, he couldn't help but to respond.

——Nii-san! If it's Nii-san, I'm sure you'll be able to do it somehow!

– Of course, I'll show it in one way or another!

While responding to the voice of Karen like he did before, the body of Hayato shone.

It's a blue brilliance, it's different from usual.

The armament covers the whole body of Hayato.

It's the second time——

He's completely armed with the help of Liza.

Hayato turns his eyes to Nesat.

She was gasping in pain while keeping the balance of her body by stabbing the two swords of both hands on the ground.

– This song... my head... hurts! What is, this... aah, aAH, aAaaaaaAaaaaah!!

While screaming, Nesat aims at Emile who remained fallen on the ground and raises overhead the sharp sword of her right hand.

(——this is bad!!)

Hayato rapidly kicked the ground, lowering the visor.

(My body is absurdly light...)

Even he was surprised to that degree.

Hayato arrived at the position of Nesat in an instant and blocked the sword of Nesat with *Hien*.

Thereupon, something happens.

The emotions of Nesat flow into Hayato together with *energy*.

『Why are you getting in the way ...!』

– Well, if a friend tries to hurt a friend, then you'll get in the way, right?

『Friend? For us, you are enemies! In order to protect Krovahn and Nakri, it is absolutely necessary to fight...!』

Nesat draws the crescent moon sharp sword, and attacks Hayato with the sharp sword of the other hand.

– You’re wrong!!

Hayato exclaimed while blocking so.

– Remember! When we fought before, our president said so, didn’t she? That we weren’t going to capture you, but that we were going to protect you!

– ... ah... protect...?

It seems that was able to flow into her head.

That’s the word that escaped from the mouth of Nesat.

– Yeah, protection!

– But, the Slayers are our enemies... we were detained in a place similar to a prison and you treated us like slaves—

– Little Garden didn’t put you in prison, didn’t it? Even though it was house arrest, it wasn’t confinement. They didn’t even separate the three of you and they never took away the Hundred from your eye!

– Ah...

The arms of Nesat wavered with the sword’s pressure of *Hien*.

– Besides, it was Krovahn....? He said it a while ago. “We’ll fight with you”. So, we’re companions. There’s no need to fight. That’s why, I’ll help you!

– ... you’ll help, me...?

– That’s right, we’ll help you!

– Help? But Vitaly said so too! And yet!

The sharp sword of one of her hands is raised overhead again.

Her golden eyes shine violently, black *energy* covers her whole body and grows restively like a flame that whirls up.

– We’re different! Little Garden will never use you for its own self-interest or something like that!

– You’re lying...! I don’t believe that! We only have ourselves, the rest is already...!

The sharp sword was struck hard by *Hien* that was readied in front of her

forehead.

The pressure of the two swords brought with *energy* is considerable.

Still, the blue shining *Hien* was superior.

– Make this the last one if you want, but please believe me. I'm sure you'll be accepted by the president, us, Sakura and Karen who are singing this song and everyone in Little Garden as well. Race and nationality are irrelevant here. Because this is a place where everyone can live with equality!

Because of *Hien*, the two sharp swords revolved in the air.

The tip of the sword that attacked Nesat with its momentum pulverizes the armor of the face, the eyepatch-like thing that was covering one of her eyes is in sight.

– Ah...

The hands of Nesat languidly drooped to the ground.

A trickle of tears spills over and falls from one of the eyes whose glow has returned.

– ... you are really, going to, accept us?

– Absolutely. Because we are companions.

– ... compa, nions...

At the same time the bursting tears walk over her cheeks and fall to the ground, her armament cancels.

– ...



Hayato caught Nesat who was about to fall to the ground from her knees with his arms.

Beyond that, Emile who got up approaches them although her walk was unsteady.

– ... Hayato, what on earth happened? Your wounds are healed, and a blue aura has appeared from your body...

– Well, you see—

And, when Hayato tried to answer, an emergency call reverberated from the two wireless rings.



At that time, Claire who's in the briefing room, was grasping the situation to the best of her ability while dripping sweat on her forehead.

Despite standing in this place as the representative of Little Garden, and since the terrorism began, she couldn't do anything properly. On the contrary, now that the noise resonates in her head, she can't even think straight.

(Is this noise a trap set by Vitaly too desuno?) In the briefing room, only the Slayers receive the effects of the noise.

In other words, it seems that some kind of sound wave that is effective against the Slayers comes from somewhere.

(Because this is the underground, it seems that the effect is minor compared to other Slayers, however...)

On the camera, the figures of Slayers suffering due to the noise were reflected.

It looks they weren't able to engage with the *replicants*.

(We have to investigate the cause quickly, because if we don't do something...)

However, she doesn't know where this sound wave is being emitted from.

It looks that some abnormal electromagnetic waves are generated since the video is distorted from some time ago, and the audio is also intermittent, and depending on the location, it doesn't connect.

(Although it's not possible to do anything here, and if I'm in this state, then it will be useless to rush to the battlefield desuwane...)

Claire covers her forehead with her right hand while feeling her own powerlessness.

It's there when she began to hear the songs of Karen and Sakura.

– ... what is this?

– It seems that the sound is distributing in places where Souffle is connected with a wired line.... What are they planning to do with this?

– No way, they're planning to drown out the noise with songs...

That's what Chris said.

At that moment, Claire became surprised.

– It's true desuwa, certainly the noise can't be heard, and the headache is also...

– This means we were saved by their idea.

– Yes...

Claire nodded towards Erika and continued her words.

– Chris, what about the communication? Check the situation of the other Slayers....

– We were able to confirm the situation of the Slayers on the deck.

Apparently, everyone seems to be fine. Moreover, thanks to the singing voices of Karen-san and Sakura-san, all the hornets that were generating noise fell to the ground and the sea, I presume their actions stopped or they exploded. The *replicants* on the deck seem to have been completely exterminated by the Slayers who were encouraged by the songs. The communication has been restored too and a communication request has come from Claudia-san. I will

connect Claire-sama now.

— Everyone, can you hear me? Thanks for your hard work exterminating the *replicants*. However, we have yet to grasp the whole thing masen. It will save us the trouble if those who are not injured can finish them on the spot masu.

『Then, in other words, you're saying that you don't know the state of Emile-sama and the others? In that case, I'll head right away so please tell me where they are!』

***TN: Btw Claudia does say Emile-sama.**

The communication between Claire and Claudia was open to all the Slayers. With that much, Latia who was listening to it forced her way through from the side.

『If this isn't finished yet, then Fritz and I will head to where Hayato and Emile are. Tell us the location, please!』

『Claudia Lowetti, Latia Saint-Émillion. I understand your feelings, but your *energy* has already been exhausted masu. Therefore, instead of you, I—』

Although they don't know the whereabouts of Vitaly Tynyanov yet, the progress of the battle is reaching a stopping place.

If it's in this situation, then the rest of the instructions will be entrusted to Chris or Erika, and if she herself goes to where Kisaragi Hayato and Emile Hermit are, then there will be no problem.

At any rate, she doesn't know the state of the three artificial Variants—the three former hunters who sortied under her judgment.

She must take responsibility for them.

So, by sorting herself—

And when she tried to declare so, an incoming alert reached her ears.

(Maybe it's Kisaragi Hayato desuno!?)

She turns her eyes towards the monitor in front of her in expectation.

However, what is displayed there is the name of Judal Harvey.

While closing her eyes partly, Claire opens the line.

『Hey, Claire. It seems we had a splendid hard fight this time』

She was hearing a cheerful voice.

Why under these circumstances? Claire frowns.

Naturally, her tone becomes stinging.

– What are you saying, Onii-sama? It's true that the progress of the battle is settling down, but this is not the situation to have a frivolous talk yet masenwa.

『I don't have the intention to crack jokes』

– Then what are you up to masuno?

『The mastermind of this incident is Vitaly Tynyanov who committed suicide』

– What did you say!?

『The war situation won't get worse than this. This matter was dealt by Charlotte Dimandius and me. I'll leave the rest of the job to you and your excellent soldiers』

– Wait, Judal! Onii-sama!

She tried to ask the details, but the communication came to an end.

Even if call requests are made, they're rejected.

– What on earth does that mean desuno...

Immediately after Claire muttered.

Chris conveys the good news with a lively voice.

– Claire-sama, the radio has been completely restored, and we were able to identify Hayato-san and the others. Both *replicants* and hornets were all exterminated!

– Really desuno!?

– Opening a line with Hayato-san and the others now.

The figure of Hayato and co. were reflected on the monitor in front of her, the expression of Claire got brighter.

– Can you hear me, Kisaragi Hayato and Emile Crossford!? This is the Student Council President of Little Garden, Claire Harvey desuwa!

『We hear you, president』

Hayato accepted the communication and starts talking about the *replicant* and the three artificial Variants with Emile.

– ... so such a thing happened. I told Charlotte Dimandius to hand over the Hundred and I approved the deployment of the three desuwa. I have to recognize it was a miscalculation masenwane. I am truly sorry.

『Other than that prez, how is the whole war situation going? What are we going to do now?』

– Come to think of it, I haven't told you yet deshitawane. The Savages in all places were destroyed desu. I got a communication from my older brother that Vitaly Tynyanov, the mastermind of this terrorism, was secured too. With this, the battle has ended desuwa.

『I see, what a relief...』

Emile who asked that, shows a smile, feeling relieved.

『Yeah, definitely』

Hayato also nodded, he felt relieved.

– Well then, I will cut the line for the moment masuwa. We must inform the residents of Little Garden and the visitors about the cancellation of the declaration of the state of emergency with an entire broadcasting. Chris, switch to a complete broadcasting please.

– Yes, the switch is done.

Chris answers.

Thereupon, Claire started talking with a serious tone.

『Informing to all the visitors and residents of Little Garden in the name of Claire Harvey, the Student Council President of Little Garden. In view of the present moment, we will cancel the declaration of the state of emergency masu. Little Garden was protected from the threat of the terrorist attacks.

Informing once again——』

While repeating the cancellation of the declaration of the state of emergency, they can confirm it on the monitors of the briefing room and cheers break out from every single place.

– It's really settled down with this desuwane.

At the same time as she finishes the broadcast, Claire deeply leans her body on the back of the chair then took a big breath.

A communication from the stadium comes there.

『President, can we resume the *live*? The spectators are coming back』

– Eh,,,

『President, I request the same』

The next communication was from Hayato.

『You promised me, didn't you? Let's solve the incident to continue with the founding festival』

– You're right, but...

A communication enters again.

This time it's from Charlotte Dimandius.

『Although some of the buildings and facilities are damaged, there are no casualties. If we have already captured the perpetrator of the terrorism and safety is completely guaranteed, then I don't see the problem to continue』

– ... even you, Charlotte...

『Doesn't everyone want to see the *live concert* as the first step for the reconstruction of Little Garden? Who's with me!?!』

An excited cheering resounded in the stadium, matching the encouraging shout of Sakura.

For Claire who has received the image of the stadium.

The spectators of the *live*——

And how they desire to continue the Gardens Festa.

『Please, President』

Hayato and Emile say so.

『I also ask the same』

Besides Latia who followed so.

Fritz and the others seem to have the same feeling.

— — —eh, could it be this line is...

Chris answers the question of Claire.

— It looks like it's opened to all Little Garden and not just at the stadium, isn't it?

— W-what did you say!?

— The voices wishing for the continuation of the *live*— —as well as the Gardens Festa from all the visitors, the residents taking refuge in the *shelter* and the Slayers on the deck are coming. What are you going to do, Claire-sama?

Following the words of Chris, the images of the *shelter* and the figures of the Slayers on the deck are projected one after another on the monitor.

They can also hear the voices which are broadcasted in the sound and video of the *live*.

— This doesn't look like a situation where you can call a cancelation.

Erika muttered.

— ... you are correct desuwane.

Claire answered, then took a breath again and smiled.

— Do you hear me, Kirishima Sakura? I approve the continuation of the *live concert* masuwa.

『Yay! Everyone, they gave their thumbs up to the *live*!』

The shouts of joy come not only from the audience, but from all Little Garden.

— Thank you, president.

And thinks like that can be heard.

– ... I didn't do anything to be appreciated masenwayo. On the contrary, I was useless.

Claire murmurs, closing the line.

Thereupon, Erika followed without a moment's delay.

– That's not true. Claire-sama did as much as she could under this situation. She should be proud of saving Little Garden that fell into a critical situation.

– That's right, Claire-sama.

Next, Chris follows.

– All is well that ends well. 《LizA》also says so.

Claire confirms the log of 《LizA》.

——Nee-sama.

——Thank you for protecting Little Garden.

– Ah...

Claire involuntarily covered her mouth with her hand.

Then, she looks up at the emptiness.

It's to suppress the tears that seemed to overflow out of nowhere.

『Well then, let's resume the *live*! Let's give our thanks to the Slayers who protected Little Garden and let's have a wonderful time to brighten the mood in order to restore our energies towards the reconstruction! Karen-chan, you ready?』

『Y-yes!』

The singing voices of Sakura and Karen echo in all Little Garden.

– It's a good and lively song, isn't it?

Chris speaks to Claire during its resounding.

But Claire didn't respond.

She sits deeply on her chair and doesn't move while looking up at the ceiling.

– Err, Claire-sama...?

– ... what?

Calling out to her once again, Claire showed a reaction.

– Are you possibly tired? In that case, why don't Claire-sama go back to the president's office to take a rest?

– Umm, yes... I will do so desuwane.

Claire stood up while rubbing her eyes with the cuff of the uniform and murmured in her mind.

(Even though I'm happy, I'm shedding tears desuwane...)

Chapter 7: Late-night festival *Confession*

Identity

– We made it to be in time for the end, somehow...

When Hayato and Emile who changed to their uniforms from their Variable Suits returned to the stadium, the last song of the encore was about to spell the end.

Because he wanted to see all of the big moments of his little sister properly with his eyes, not everything went bad for him, even though he was just in time for that like this.

The song ends, Karen receives the cheers and applause on her whole body at the center of the stage, that reflection was shining many times.

It seems that tears are flowing, it might be because he's too emotional.

– Karen...

Recalling the days when she was continuously doing rehabilitation in desperation, tears were spilt from the eyes of Hayato.

– Hayato looks like a father.

Emile slipped out a smile.

– It's inevitable.... It was unexpected to see the condition of Karen could look like this so quickly.

– It's a relief, Hayato.

Saying so, Emile held out a handkerchief then Hayato nodded and said「Yeah」 with a nasal voice, wiping the tears.

While the satisfied spectators were leaving from the stadium one after another, Hayato and Emile were heading to the dressing room of the basement.

– Good job, you two.

– Nii-san!

When Hayato opens the door of the dressing room and speaks to them, Karen who was still in her Variable Suit, jumps towards his chest.

– Hey hey, what are you doing all of a sudden? Today's heroine.

– Ni-san, what is today's heroine...?

– You are the heroine.

Hayato stroked the hair of Karen.

– I saw you properly. You were singing at your best.

– ... is that so?

– Yeah, you were cute and cool.

– Ehehe, I'm very happy if Nii-san says so.

In Hayato's arms, Karen shows an extraordinary smile.

– Come to think of it, Nii-san, are you alright? It seems you don't have injuries, which is great, but...

– Yeah, it's as you can see. I have no injuries.

– It's true, what a relief.

Looking at Hayato's body, Karen let out a relieved breath.

– It's thanks to your songs. I don't know what could have happened without your songs.

Saying that, Hayato points his eyes to Sakura.

– It's thanks to Sakura too. Hmm, it was your idea too? As one would expect. You really saved us.

– Ehehe, I feel embarrassed when you tell me so... But, I'm glad. Our songs reached Hayato-kun and everyone satisfactorily.

– Your songs and your feelings.

When Hayato says so, Sakura and Karen smile happily then show a V sign to each other.

Their appearances, as if they were real sisters, were reflected in the eyes of

Hayato.

※ ※ ※

– I have to go and meet with the president for a bit, so what are you going to do?

Hayato and Emile left the dressing room as soon as Sakura and Karen started changing clothes, they were walking in the corridor.

– Charo called me, so I'll go to the lab.

Emile answers the question of Hayato.

– The laboratory? Something happened?

– It just that I used the ability of the Variant too much in this fight. My injuries aren't fully healed yet, and because I'm in a sort of unstable state, I'll have to enter for 10 minutes or so the device to stabilize the Variant Virus. Hayato always ends like this, don't you?

Ahaha, Emile laughs.

– Which reminds me, I still haven't heard of what happened the moment the singing voices of Karen and Sakura were ongoing. What happened there? What was that power? Why the wounds of Hayato healed?

Emile throws questions one after another.

– Well, I'll talk about that with the president now. I don't know how much I can tell Emile, so I'll ask her if it's fine to say something.

Both Hayato and Emile left the stadium and moved to the school building of the Martial Arts Department.

The basement corridor is in a miserable condition.

Big holes are in some places, and a number of small holes were made by bullets.

Although repairs have already begun, it seems that there are places where electricity isn't restored. AT the intersection of the basement floor, Emile stops her feet.

– I'll go this way, so I'll depart here. Well then, let's meet again in a moment.

You haven't forgotten about the late night festival, right?

– Of course not. It begins in 30 minutes, yes? So, there's an hour till the fireworks, so there's no problem. Once I have finished with the errand, I'll mail you to meet somewhere, okay?

– Yeah, got it.

Hayato who parted from Emile on her way to the lab, stood alone in front of the Student Council Room.

Knock Knock, knocking the door, he raises his voice.

– It's Kisaragi Hayato.

– The door is unlocked masuwa. You can enter desuwayo.

Listening to the reply of Claire, Hayato stepped inside the Student Council Room.

Erika isn't there. Liddy isn't there either.

Claire is alone in the spacious Student Council Room.

It's as they promised.

The conversation from now on is one that can only be done by those two.

That's why he told her that he wanted to talk with her alone.

– Good work, Kisaragi Hayato.

It's Claire who opened her mouth first.

And at the same time, a sound resonates with a clink on his back.

It seems that Claire has locked the door using a remote control.

– Likewise. And thank you for taking the time specially in a hectic time like this.

– It's not a problem masenwa. You have something important to talk about, correct? So, what is it about desu?

– Well, there's that and...

Hayato began to talk about after defeating the *replicant* on the top glass.

The former hunters.

And, the noise generated immediately after he joined with Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri, the three artificial Variants.

As a result, the three artificial Variants ran wildly.

About how they were caught in a dilemma because the control of the *energy* became unstable due to the headache.

However, due to the songs of Sakura and Karen, the effect of the noise ceased.

The problem comes after that.

– The little sister of President——Liza, appeared before my eyes.

– What did you say...!?

– I know that it doesn't mean she was the real Liza, but...

Anyhow, her body was transparent.

It was like a mass of *energy*.

– And then, Liza lent me her power. Thanks to that, my wounds healed and I was able to stop the attacks of Nesat who armed copying the corpse of the *replicant* then attempted to persuade her, I made her disarm herself.

– Such a thing happened.... At that time, did Liza say something?

– That I'm the one ought to ornament this last fight, or something like that...

When Hayato answers, Claire slipped out a smile.

– You are truly liked by Liza desuwane.

– ... ah...

At that time, he remembered when had kissed him.

– Did something else happen mashitano?

– N-no, not at all...

It would be better to not say that she gave her power with a kiss.

... probably.

– Anyway, it is my responsibility for letting the three artificial Variants to sortie arimasu. I caused trouble to you again mashitawane, Kisaragi Hayato.

– No, that's.... Besides, I promised to be the strength of the president. Umm, come to think of it, what about those three?

– Eh, yes.... Charlotte seems to be protecting them desuwa. It looks there's nothing wrong regarding their lives, for now desu. We will think about measures to prevent rampages from now on desu.

– Is that so...?

Hayato feels relieved.

– You are really kind desuwane.

– Eh...?

– Well, it's just... thank you very much for conveying the information that Liza has appeared masu. This might be a sign of a real awakening masenwa.

– It was for only a moment, but Liza was completely awakened.

– ——Onii-sama!?

Opening the door all of a sudden, the person who set foot into the president's office was Judal Harvey, the older brother of Claire.

– And then, she protected my life. Oh, speaking of which, I still haven't told Claire. The terrorist Vitaly Tynyanov was after the core of Little Garden to have the key to control Warslan from now on. And so, our little sister——Liza Harvey.

– ...

Claire responds nothing.

Because she was pondering that such wasn't the truth from the behavior of Judal.

– After I came out from the briefing room, I headed to Liza and it was there where I met with Vitaly. Thereupon, Liza opened her eyes. And she stopped the bullets that Vitaly had fired with a *barrier*. Then, using *energy*, she created clones of herself and surrounded Vitaly. Looking at that gap, I did this to Vitaly.

Judal makes a gun with his fingers and says 「BANG!」

While glaring at Judal with half-opened eyes, Claire asks in a low voice.

– ... Onii-sama...

– Why are you making such a scary face? It spoils your beauty.

– But it was said that Vitaly Tynyanov suicided deshitawayone.

– Yeah, which reminds me, I was **about to mention so**. In the official report document, my life was being targeted by Vitaly to whom I conversely drove to a corner, and because she was cornered, she suicided. So, there's nothing wrong with it. And the matter of Liza won't be public.

– ...

Claire kept looking down, holding her temper.

However, those are unavoidable measures to not make Liza public.

– In any case, the damages of Little Garden were minimal. We were able to get rid of Vitaly as planned, it's such a great thing for us that the obstacles to Project Lunaltia were reduced by one, don't you agree?

– ... as planned, you say? You're saying that you guessed that Vitaly was going to come by herself and was after Liza desuno?

– To put it correctly, Liza and me, isn't it?

– Judal! You—!?

Claire flared up at the collar of Judal.

– Depending on the situation, it was even possible that casualties would have appeared among the visitors and residents of Little Garden desuwayo. But even so, Onii-sama is saying that you used us as decoys!?

– If that's the case, then what about it? If you feel satisfied by hitting me, then it's fine to hit me.

There's no agitation.

Coldly saying that, Judal glares back at Claire.

– ... kuh....!

She thought that it was useless to keep complaining more than this.

Claire took off her hands from Judal.

Phew...., Judal sighs and opens his mouth while straightening himself.

– Claire, I'll just let you know this. Now that Liza is trying to wake up, I thought that I could deal with Vitaly. That was the best option with less victims, and its probability of success was high. I also thought that it would be for the sake of the future of mankind. However, I didn't consider using you as decoys. Besides, if it's you, then it's a trusting plan where we can minimize sacrifices.

There, the door of the presidents' office makes a *knock knock*.

– ... who is it desuno?

It's Claire who asked.

– It's Emile Crossford. It seems that Hayato is still here but, is it still going to take time?

– No, the conversation is over, Emile-kun.

It's Judal who said so.

When he unlocks the door and opens it, he was able to see the figure of the surprised Emile.

– Onii-sama, doing what you please is...

– It's fine, you know? The conversation is truly over. After all, the late-night festival starts soon. And the discussion of the restoration plan will be informed afterwards as well, isn't that correct?

– That's, correct, but...

– Well then, I will take my leave first.

Judal leaves the Student Council Room.

– Hayato, what were you talking about with the prez and the company president? Is it okay to explain to me what happened to Hayato during the battle?

– That's, well...

– Kisaragi Hayato.

– Ah, yes.

Claire approached the side of Hayato and said at his ear in a tiny voice so that she wasn't heard by Emile, calling his attention.

– Your awakening comes from the songs of Kisaragi Karen and Kirishima Sakura. That's our common point of view. Are we clear desuwane?

Looks like she grasped that Emile was getting aware of something.

Saying so, Claire casted down her eyes.

– The talk is over with this desuwa.

– Alright. Then can we go and see the fireworks already?

Saying that, Emile takes the arm of Hayato.

Claire narrowed her eyes.

– ... fireworks desuno?

– We promised to see the fireworks at the late-night festival together. With that said, let's go, Hayato.

– Wa-wait a moment!

Claire says on the back of Hayato who's about to leave the Student Council Room while being pulled by Emile.

– Why? Is there still something?

– Ah, no, err...

Claire rolls unintelligibly words in her mouth.

The words that finally came out are,

– ... nothing in particular masenwayo.

※ ※ ※

– Where are we going?

Hayato who left the Student Council Room was walking along the side of the completely silent stadium, leaving behind the school building of the Martial Arts Department that is about to get excited with the late-night festival in a shape as

if he let himself be persuaded by Emile.

– It's a private beach for Slayers. The students of Martial Arts Department, residents and visitors are all around the school where the late-night festival is being held now, so I imagined that that place was empty.

– I see.

– The fireworks seem to come from nearby uninhabited beaches. We should be able to see them from that beach.

They immediately arrived at that beach.

And certainly as Emile was saying, there's no one.

Unlike the school building which is rising with great noise, here it's completely silent.

– Let's seat.

– Yeah.

They sit down side-by-side on the completely silent beach.

Wave wave... the roar of the waves is heard.

There are countless stars spread almost all over the sky.

– Ah, you... what are you doing?

When he noticed, Emile started untying the ribbon with what she did a ponytail.

– Now I'm not Emile Crossford, I'm Emilia Hermit... no, I want to be close with Hayato as Emilia Gudenburg.

– But, this is Little Garden, isn't it? Isn't dangerous here as well?

– It's fine. There's no one around us.

– That may be true, but.

– Ehehe...

Emilia who unlaced the ribbon brings her body even more closer.

– It's been half a year since you came here already.

– ... that's right.

– And really, a lot of things happened.

– Yeah...

The enrolment in Little Garden.

The intensive training with Emile aka Emilia to fight with the president.

He joined *Selections* and fought against the Savages for the first time.

He also did an escort mission and participated in a joint operation.

And of course, it's not only him.

Fritz and Latia.

Shuemei, Alphonse and Noah.

Sakura, the president and the vice presidents.

He made a lot of friends and Karen got quite healthy as well.

– There's no doubt that these have been the most dense six months in my life.

Hayato muttered while thinking back upon this half year.

– Me too. It was very dense. I was able to see Hayato again in this way.

While saying that, Emilia piles up her hands.

– ...

– ...

Silence visited again.

Hayato looks at the face of Emile from the side.

She was showing an expression that she was thinking hard over something, that she was pondering about something.

Recently, he was frequently looking a look of Emile like this....

– Why are you fixedly looking at my face?

– Well, I thought that you were putting that face recently. Is there something

you are thinking about?

– After all, you noticed, huh.

Laughing with a *ahaha*, Emile continued.

– Sorry. I was lying to Hayato.

– Lying? What are you saying?

– In fact, I caused trouble all the time. The day when Kilfelthar came to Little Garden. That day, he told me that my father's health was quite bad. For that reason, he wants me to come back to my country. He said the king... that my father wanted to see me.

– Then you were wavering because of that?

– The people of government of Gudenburg hates me, but my father gave me my freedom. There are no bad feelings towards my father. If he says he wants to see me, then I'd like to see him, but there's also the matter of the engagement, so if he remained as he was, then I'll definitely wouldn't have thought about going back. But, Kilfelthar was saying that I can go with Hayato.

– You're saying that you want to go home with me? If so, then I don't mind. You went with me to Yamato before. So, of course we should talk about this matter to the president and get some holidays. You'll never know when you'll have to part with your father or mother, so she must do it if it's a serious matter.

– That's not what I meant.

– ...eh?

– I wasn't talking about holidays. Kilfelthar told me to leave Little Garden and return to Gudenburg right now.

– Eh...

– Kilfelthar told me that Little Garden is in even more danger. That's also the consensus of the government of Gudenburg. If it's now Hayato, then you know what it means?

– Well, I guess...

Of course he grasps that it means the joint operation and the elapsed attack of this time.

Although some people regard them as heroes, it doesn't mean they are loved around the world. There are many people who bear a grudge against them.

— So, I was worrying about it. If I can spend safe days in happiness with Hayato when I'll return to Gudenburg.

— ...

— Even the health of Karen-chan became quite better and the institution of Yamato had finished rebuilding as well, so it seemed that everyone is happy. Hayato doesn't need to be here anymore, isn't that right?

— But it's precisely because I'm studying in Little Garden and became a mercenary of Warslan that I covered the costs of the reconstruction of the institution and the surgery costs of Karen, so as one would expect I...

— I think that the part of the repayment is more than enough, so Hayato doesn't have to work anymore. Besides, in case Warslan says that they want the total amount of the money they have invested so far, then I'm sure Gudenburg will pay it.

For an ordinary person that might be a large amount of money, but if it's a whole country, then that amount of money it's not a big deal, perhaps.

In order to bring back Emilia to Gudenburg, it's what he can understand from the conversation so far in a sort of way.

(But...)

The first that floated in the head of Hayato was the face of the Student Council President of Little Garden, Claire Harvey. And her older brother, Judal Harvey, the company president of Warslan Company, to whom he doesn't know what to think about and he doesn't know if it's fine to believe in him.

But, the president is——

Hayato thinks that the Queen of Little Garden, Claire Harvey, is a person he trusts.

(Besides, there's the promise after all...)

Of course that is, to be of help to the president.

There are many friends he made at this place as well.

Moreover, there's Liza...

– I'm sorry, Emilia.

– Eh...?

– I can't accept that invitation now.

– I see...

Emilia smiled sweetly and,

– It's because of a promise with the president?

– Eh...?

– Bull's-eye? You're picking the president over me?

*TN: Who wouldn't?

She raises her eyebrows.

– No, it's nothing like that.

– Then what does it mean?

– Well, that's.... I came to Little Garden for various reasons, such as for the sake of Karen and for the companions of the institution with whom I lived together in Yamato, but now I feel like I want to fight as a member of *Selections*. It's my first time feeling like this. I feel that I have found something that I want to do, as a goal for me.

– The thing that Hayato want to do?

– Don't you have something like that too?

– What I want to do...?

– Yeah, do you have something?

– If I can stay with Hayato, that's fine by me. Really, that's all there is to it.

– ... I see.

– Yup.

– If so, then...

– What?

– Then don't you want to stay here in Little Garden— and hangout with me for a while? Of course, I'll go with you temporarily to Gudenburg.

– Got it. If Hayato says so.

– Really?

– But, promise me something.

– A promise?

– Don't die. Never. Don't be unreasonable.

That was the heaviest thing as of now, a supplication from the bottom of her heart.

– ... got it. I promise.

– If so, then I'll stay with you.

– Sorry.

– Don't apologize. It's like it's my loss when I fell in love with Hayato at that point in time.

Boom!

When they looked up at the night sky in response to a sound of a gunpowder that exploded, red blooming where drawn there.

Apparently, it seems that the launch of fireworks began.

– Wow, it's beautiful...

Emilia murmured while watching at the yellow, green and other blooming drawn in the night sky one after another.

– Say, are these the same as the rumored ones of Yamato?

Hayato nodded, recalling the fireworks of Yamato in his memory.

– So, are you satisfied?

– Yup. Because I was able to see them with Hayato, the two of us, in this way.

Blooming are being drawn in the night sky without stopping.

– Hey, Hayato.

Grabs

Emilia pulled the sleeve of his uniform.

– What is it, even though the fireworks are fine at this place...

– It's fine, look at me for a minute.

– Got it... eh——

Replying, the instant when Hayato looked at the direction of Emilia.

Emilia blocked his lips with her lips.

– *Kiss.... Fuaah... chu... smooch...*

Tongues and saliva get tangled together, it's a long kiss.

– ... *kiss, chu.... smack, nfuu...*

They've been kissing for almost a minute now.

Even when their lips separated, a saliva thread was tying the two of them.

– W-what are you doing so suddenly!? Neither of us are under the influence of the Variant Virus, and our vital and *energy* are not having issues either——

– It has nothing to do with that.

– It has nothing to do with that....?

– It's totally unrelated to that. I wanted to kiss Hayato. So I just did it.

There's no reason.

She wanted to kiss him.

And so, she did.

That's a kiss.

It's a kiss between a girlfriend and a boyfriend.

– You haven't kissed anyone like this till now, right?

– That's, right but...

Emilia's the only one he did it like this.

If it's about the president, it was merely to deliver his power.

Of course, there's Liza as well.

– Hayato, one more time...

Then again, Emilia closed the lips of Hayato.

Without stopping, the explosive sounds continue echoing.

In the sky, huge red, blue, yellow, green and orange blooming were drawn.

– Sorry....

Saying so almost at the same time their long kiss finished, Emilia continues.

– But, please forgive my selfishness. Because I will control myself from now on. And as Hayato said earlier, I'll search for my goal. But, now, one more time...

Emilia kisses Hayato, pushing him down.

It's not only once.



Short kisses. Long kisses.

They move their necks and lips many, many times over.

Hayato hugged Emilia with both arms.

What sounded there was the voice of Sakura.

– AAAAA, you guys! W-what are you doing, kissing and being entangled like that!?

– Eh...

Emilia hardens.

– No way...?

Hayato doubted his eyes.

When the two of them raised up their bodies all together, not only Sakura was pointing with her index finger of her right hand towards Hayato and Emilia who are on the sandy beach but also the wheelchaired Karen, Fritz, Latia— even Claudia was there.

– I knew that she was with Kisaragi Hayato and I had to get in the way, but I never imagined that she was going to be in her female figure and kissing over and over again!! I misjudged you, Emilia-sama!

Like Sakura, Claudia shouts, pointing her index finger towards Emilia.

Looking at that figure, Latia cocks her head in puzzlement.

– ... what exactly do you mean with Emilia-sama? Moreover, he's hugging Hayato. Is Emile in reality a woman? Ugh, this is incomprehensible! I see, this is a dream!

– In order to ascertain that this is a dream, should I pinch your cheek?

Fritz pulled the cheek of the confused Latia.

– *Gey, thaz hurtz!*

Latia quickly shakes off the hand of Fritz.

– But I understand well that this isn't a dream or anything. However, there's something that I don't understand yet. Don't tell me that Emile has some kind of female clothing hobby? And so, a homosexual?

– No, it's not like that.

Fritz makes a wry smile.

– But naturally, this is confusing...

Fritz smiles wryly again, turning his eyes towards Karen who is shaking on the wheelchair.

– Eh, eh...? Then Emile-san, is Emilia-san, a girl? Then Nii-san was kissing with a—? I was worried that he was batting for the same team, but between a man and a woman? Eh? Au...

Karen can't understand the reality and her thought isn't catching up with it, it seems that her brain overheated.

– Now that it has become to this, it can't be helped. I was caught red handed so.

– You were caught? No way, you are...

– I was thinking that it was reaching its limit, so it can't be helped. I was already found by the guys of Gudenburg so there's no need to hide it.

As Emilia scratches the back of her head with a hand looking troubled, she faced everyone except Hayato with an embarrassed-like look on her face.

– To tell the truth, I was lying to everyone. As you can see, I'm actually a woman... And also, I'm the third prince of Gudenburg.

Boom, during the biggest 4 shaku* sphere fireworks of today that bursts open in the night sky making the sound of an explosion, what were greater than that were the loud surprised voices that resounded at the sandy beach.

*TN: Shaku 尺 is a unit of distance approximately equal to 30.3 cm.

Epilogue

Once the festival night event was over, all the first through third year students belonging to the martial arts department were gathered in the great hall, where they were informed about the recovery plan by the Student Council.

But Emile Crossfode was not in this great room ... Emilia Hermit, rather, Emilia Gudenburg. The high command would share the information that has been confirmed. There, the true identity of the young woman would be revealed to the comrades of the martial arts department.

The excitement of the evening event still did not appease, but the interior astonishingly entered in silence with the opening of the front doors of the great hall. Those who entered were Claire, Liddy and Erika, members of the Student Council.

– Thanks to everyone for waiting.

Standing in front of the podium, Claire started talking.

– To begin, following the greeting of the festival night event, I want to thank each and every one of you, for protecting Little Garden from the hands of the terrorist Vitaly Tynyanov.

**** Applause ** ** Applause **** Sounds of hands clashing, as if they were fighting against each other, dominated the great hall.

Once it returned to silence, Claire continued her speech.

– Thanks to the daily training that everyone performs, there are no human losses to regret. However, part of the institution was destroyed and many people were injured, including the Student Council. As a representative of Warslan, I feel responsible for all this. I do not know if an apology is enough, but from today I will work day and night on a restoration plan for Little Garden. As a preliminary step, and based on the current conditions, Erika will inform you of what has been decided so far.

– Therefore, I will speak to you from now on.

Erika, who positioned herself in front of the podium to replace Claire, reported that restorations are expected to take at least a month in Little Garden, and during that time, thanks to being able to be in port in the city of Sangria, it will be possible to partly to normalize.

Students of the upper division of the martial arts department were instructed to spend their time in classes related to the restoration of ships.

– I finished the report.

When saying that, Erika was replaced again by Claire.

Apparently, the moment has finally arrived.

– Finally, there is one last news for all of you.

Claire, saying that, turned her eyes to the door in front of the room.

– Enter, Emilia Hermit.

The door opened in response to that word, and a girl entered the room.

Contrary to the usual, her long silver hair was not picked up. What she wears is the uniform for girls in high school. In response to this, murmurs began to spread.

– Hmm, is not that Emile Crossfode?

– Now that I think about it, he is not here.

– Maybe it's some kind of punishment in the form of a game?

– A girlfriend?

– No, it's not his sister?

For Hayato, so many questions and deductions are formed as an avalanche that approaches his ears.

– In fact, our Student Council could not recognize her immediately after registering, but for reasons of his own he admitted his intention—I mean, she admitted her intention. However, based on her own request, I have decided to make it public. In any case, the details will be said by herself. Emilia, please.

– Yes.

Emilia stood in front of the podium, in place of Claire.

– Well, I think I can understand the fact that you see that this beautiful... figure that was me, turned out to be a woman.

Immediately, “AH?” “What!?” surprised voices began to appear throughout the room.

Emilia will continue her blood relationship with the Gudenburg, that is, her lineage and, therefore, in being the third princess. Then she began to talk about the circumstances of her family.

At first, she left the country without authorization, but had already been accepted in Little Garden, and was allowed to remain here. As long as possible, she will tell everything.

Anyway, Emilia has already informed Kilferthar and Claudia that she will not leave Little Garden and will not return to Gudenburg. However, it states that she must return to Gudenburg from time to time.

– It is impossible that Emilia was the princess of Gudenburg...

Noah said, who was surprised, since she did not know anything. Other students in the martial arts department had the same reaction.

– That is why my real name is Emilia Gudenberg, but during this time I have been known as Emilia Hermit and I feel linked to this name, so I would like to be called in this way. Regarding being the third princess, that was a secret and I want to keep it that way. Oh, I forgot. It does not bother me if you call me Emile from now on.

“Hahaha” When Emilia laughed, the great hall was filled with laughter.

– Anyway, I am eager to study with you from now on.

Emilia, who between welcoming applause, bowed her head forward in reverence.

In replacement of Emilia, Claire again stood in front of the podium.

– This closes the extraordinary meeting. From tomorrow things will be very hectic, therefore everyone is asked to rest today. Have a good night.

Together with the closing of the speech, Emilia and Hayato, joined the

freshmen, and bowed their heads before them.

– We're sorry for deceiving everyone during this time.

I think you have your reasons and your circumstances, it could not be otherwise. Is not that so, Latia?

– Yup.

When Fritz asked Latia, she nodded her head.

– But what are you going to do now? Will you live in the same dormitory of women with us?

– Yes, it seems that way it will be.

Emilia responded to Latia's concern.

The one that follows is Shuemei.

– Well, Emilia-san ... or rather, Emilia-san*. It's okay like that?

*TN: Indirectly refers to as if he were a male, and then retracts talking to her as if she were a woman. In both cases they appear with the suffix –san, but to translate it loses its meaning when read.

– What's wrong, Shuemei?

– If I remember correctly ... Emilia-san was living in the same room as Kisaragi-san until she joined the "Selections".

– "Oh ..."

She has been able to recognize us, Impossible!

– In other words, are you saying with certainty that they are already in that kind of relationship?

Noah, who was standing next to Shuemei, approached Hayato and Emilia, who had their mouths open like a circle.

– You have something to say, Kisaragi-san?

Without stopping, Shuemei, approached more and more.

– Emm, that's ...

She wonders what his answer would be.

Latia and Fritz look at Hayato with a big smile on their faces. It was because they saw how they were hugging that time on the beach.

(Now I wonder, what do I do now? I think I'm cornered).

And, just when Hayato was about to give up.

– Regarding this matter, I would like to hear what kind of relationship you have.

– Pre, president ...?

When he noticed, Claire joined the others.

– The information that comes from Kirishima Sakura says that you were flirting with Emilia Hermit on the coast.

– Flirting!?

– Is that true?!

Shuemei and Noa got closer. Fritz and Latia, saying “A-há” with their heads, nodded to each other.

– Certainly, he was flirting.

– Then from there the secret leaked.

Now I regret not having nailed a nail to Latia and Fritz for saying again and again so many unnecessary things, but that was already too late.

–Really? I'd like to continue listening more about this.

It could be seen Claire's face becoming distorted and tense. To be honest, that really scared me.

(Well, what should I do? ...)

Without prior notice, and due to these circumstances, Emilia takes Hayato's wrist and shouts at him.

– Hayato, let's escape!

– We must escape, but there is no where!.

– First, we have to run, then we'll think where to go!

– Uwaaaa!

Emilia started to run, catching the attention of Hayato, who also started up.

– Hayato has escaped.

– Let's go after him!

Claire responded with a shout to the warning given by Latia.

Going down the hall, Emilia and Hayato left the school building.

Behind them marched Claire, Latia, Fritz, Shuemei and Noa. Unlike them, Alphonse participated until before the persecution.

– Hahaha, this is very funny.

– You think?

– Yes it's very funny.

Emilia continued with an amazing smile on her face.

– It would be really amazing if these days were always that great.

–That would be very good.

Actually, that is something that I believe from the bottom of my heart.

–Emm, Hayato.

– What happen?

– From now on, **stay with me.**